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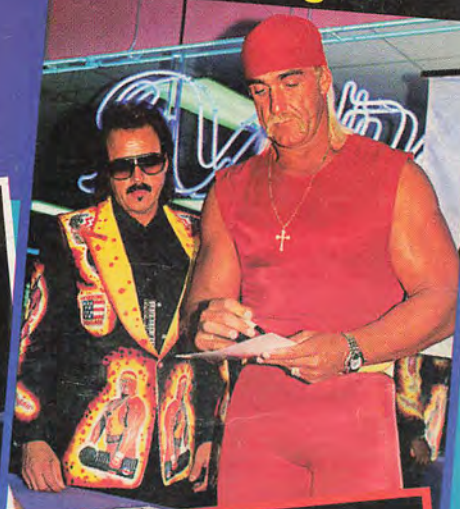
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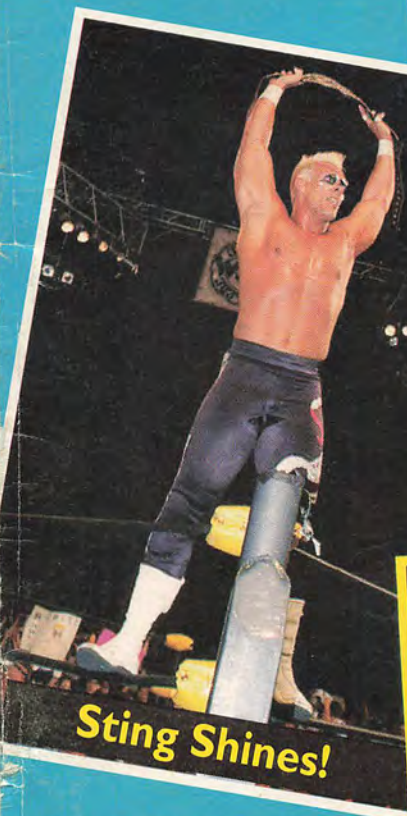
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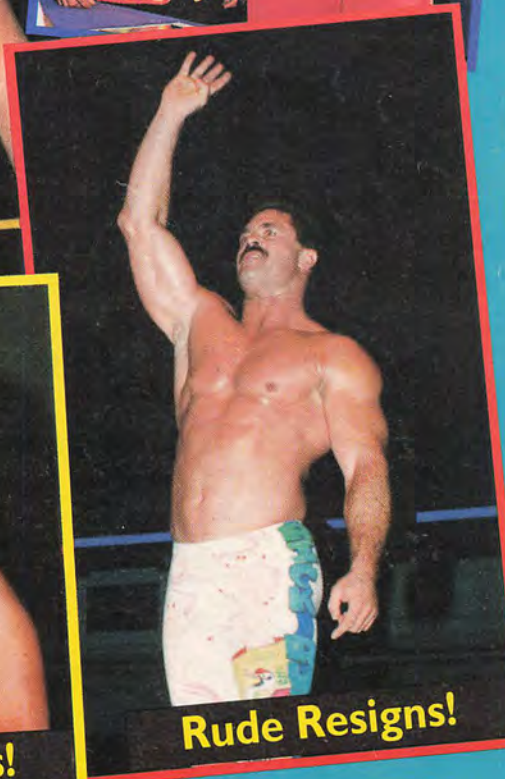
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Sincerely Yours

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PURE PARADISE

I beg to differ with the opinion Chris Bernucca expressed in his story "Blunder In Paradise: Will Hulk Hogan Ever Stop Embarassing Himself?" (August 1994).



Hulk Hogan's TV series *Thunder In Paradise* has a fan in reader Sonya L. Shelor, who likes the values it stands for. She believes the show is a perfect vehicle for Hogan—in more ways than one.

I have been a fan of Hulk Hogan for the better part of 10 years. I have seen him go from wrestling to movies and back. This time, I think he has found a character that suits him very well.

Thunder In Paradise is a good action/adventure show. It also combines friendship, loyalty, and family values. I have gotten to the

point where I watch just to check up on Spencer, Bru, Jessica, and the rest of the crew.

The episode that I liked the best was the one where Bru (Chris Lemmon) kept flashing back to when he was a POW in Vietnam. I liked it because you got to see a small part of Bru's soul. You got a clue as to what makes him the man he is.

I want to wish the cast and crew of *Thunder In Paradise* good luck with their first season. And if Hogan wants to go back to wrestling, that's fine. Just don't criticize him for it. I think he is a fine actor, given the right part.

SONYA L. SHELOR
Floyd, VA

A BAD COMBINATION

There are some things in this world that don't go together. Walking and chewing gum. Vinegar and water. Diesel and Shawn Michaels.

I am a big fan of both men, but they just don't get along. Shawn claims he doesn't need Diesel to win a title; Diesel claims he doesn't need Shawn to hold on to his title. Yet, they're still together.

That doesn't make sense. Why doesn't Shawn fire Diesel as a bodyguard, or why doesn't Diesel quit?

I hope they split up, and may things work out for the better man.

DEBBIE LASHER
Novato, CA

REGAL REWARD

I'm so happy. I just finished watching the final round of the Marquee of Queensberry matches between Ric Flair and Lord Steven Regal, and Flair won the trophy by sheer skill and cunning. Regal lost because of that toady beetlebrain Sir William, who interfered several times during the bout, thus costing Regal points.



Ric Flair's experience and wiliness proved the difference in his series of matches against Lord Steven Regal. That pleases reader Rita M. Buda, who can't stand Regal or his manager, Sir William.

Both Regal and William (a dumber bloke there never was) can cry in their ale now. Regal was beaten at his own game, and has even lost his TV title to Larry Zbyszko, of all people. This pompous airhead finally got his just desserts, and he can just savor it. I know I will.

RITA M. BUDA
Chicago

OWEN AND OUT

In reply to Richard Evans, who wrote the letter "Brawling Brothers" in the July '94 "Sincerely Yours," stating that Owen Hart could subdue brother Bret with his aerial superiority. I ask this: In the three months and 20-plus rematches that have transpired since WrestleMania X, shouldn't this superior ability have gained a repeat win for "The Rocket" by now? Apparently not, and the reason is that Owen is no longer the airborne genius that he was 18 months ago.

The severe knee injury he sus-

tained against Bam Bam Bigelow in March 1993 is still restricting him, and likely will for some time to come. Unsurprisingly, Owen could never win a rematch against the "Beast From The East" and settled instead for the easier route to prominence by attempting to humiliate his brother and his entire family—a failed attempt at that.

That well-padded limb must be a tempting target for Bret, who but

for his integrity and sportsmanship could obliterate the knee and consequently the career of the whining little runt—permanently!

SIMON COLLEAN
Bolton, England

NO TO HOGAN

I, for one (and probably many), am sick of Hulk Hogan. It's nothing new, for I've been sick of him since about 1984 (when I noticed a lot of my favorite wrestlers began to "disappear").

I've supported NWA/WCW all these years because it was the last holdout to the WWF. Now it has the gall to let Hogan use it as a giant commercial (if Tony Schiavone expects me to tune in because of a Hogan interview, he's beyond ignorant of WCW's core audience), then offer him millions to wrestle there! If it has that much money to throw around, hold a world lightweight tournament *now*.

WCW's gonna feel pretty stupid when it realizes that Hogan just can't cut it in the federation. I hereby appeal to Big Van Vader to make a headline-grabbing example of this immortal embarrassment to pro wrestling.

K.C. DARKHARTE
Biloxi, MS

(Continued on page 80)



If Owen Hart is really better than his brother Bret, he would've beaten him for the WWF World title by now, contends reader Simon Collean.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Ten years ago, Hulk Hogan was the most despised man in the dressing room he shared with the most beloved wrestlers in the WWF. He was the champion of the world and the fans were wild about him, but to every man in that room, he was the object of jealousy, scorn, and resentment.

"Hulkamania" was picking up speed, and while the politically correct fan favorites spoke words of praise for the man who had dethroned the hated Iron Sheik, deep within they seethed. Fresh from a long stint with the AWA and without having wrestled a match in the WWF, Hogan had been handed his title opportunity when the injured Bob Backlund was unable to wrestle. Backlund, recall, had been champion for nearly six years, and in that time the only people receiving title shots were rule-breakers. Having waited so long for this opportunity, it was galling to see a newcomer waltz in and grab the glory.

Today, Hogan doesn't have to endure the same resentment in the locker room. He has private quarters. But believe me, the same jealous emotions exist. Hogan has entered WCW as the numberone contender to Ric Flair's World title, and ugly murmurings are coming from people who say only nice things in public.

A decade ago, Hogan was a largely unproven commodity. Today, however, he has shown where he can take a federation. If I were sitting in that fan favorites' dressing room, I'd be a little more concerned about the overall strength of my organization than mere selfish personal goals.

At this stage in his career, the "Hulkster" receives special treatment because he has *earned* special treatment.

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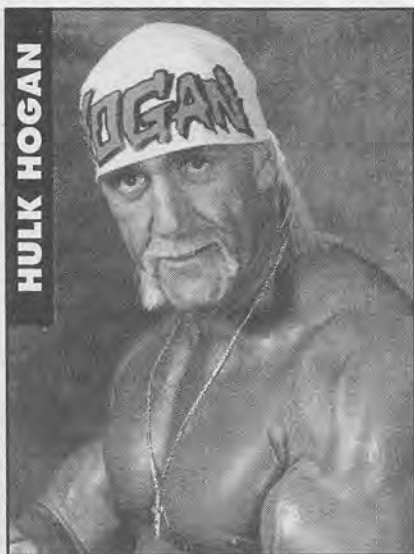
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NAMES MA

THE SPECULATION IS over. **Hulk Hogan** is now under contract to WCW and preparing to



battle **Ric Flair**. Hogan dominated their series of matches in the WWF several years ago; now the "Nature Boy" has a chance to do the same on his "home turf."

I look forward to more Flair-Hogan matches, but I'm waiting to see the "Hulkster" take aim at some of the other top WCW wrestlers. I'm talking about **Sting**, **Big Van Vader**, **Steve Austin**, and the like. If Hogan can beat any or all of those foes—men he's never wrestled before—he'd truly establish himself as the top wrestler of his era. And give fans some new, delicious feuds to boot.

Following their victory over The Nasty Boys at Slamboree, **Cactus Jack** and **Kevin Sullivan** have been able to retain the WCW World tag team championship in a series of rematches against the former champs and against **Paul Orndorff** and **Paul Roma**. Orndorff and Roma interfered in the bout with the Nastys and even

attacked **Jerry Sags** and **Brian Knobs** before leaving. Might the Nastys be having a change in attitude? Remember they were fan favorites in the WWF.

With **2 Cold Scorpio** gone from WCW, **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** is now teaming regularly with **The Patriot**. They're calling themselves **Stars 'n' Stripes**.

Sherri Martel is on the lookout for WCW talent. "Sensuous" Sherri (she's not "Sensational" anymore) is trying to put together her own stable, perhaps to rival **Col. Rob Parker's** Stud Stable, which now includes **Austin**, **Bunkhouse Buck**, **Terry Funk**, and bodyguard **Ming** (formerly known as **Haku**).

WCW broadcaster **Jesse Ventura** announced he won't run for a second term as mayor of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. He hasn't ruled out running for the U.S. Senate this fall.

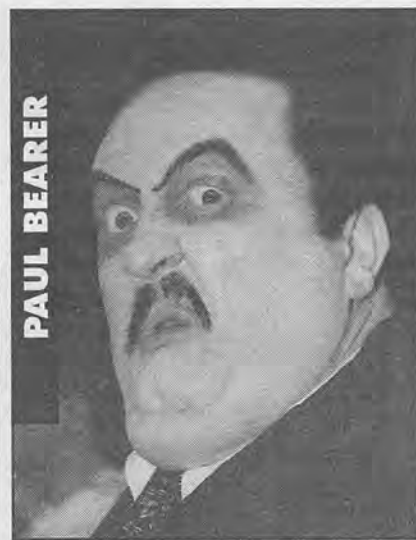
Owen Hart will get more chances to dethrone brother **Bret**, the WWF



World champ. They just signed for a series of cage matches.

Lex Luger may be out of the WWF title picture, but he has gotten revenge on his new rival **Crush** by dominating a series of bouts. One of his old rivals, former WWF champ **Yokozuna**, put **Earthquake** out of action with several "banzai" splashes and is now taking aim at **Typhoon**, who just returned to the WWF.

The Undertaker is also back in the WWF, but is it the real one? **Ted DiBiase** claims it is. Most others, including **Paul Bearer**, say DiBiase is a liar. It looks like we're in for an



Undertaker vs. Undertaker showdown at SummerSlam.

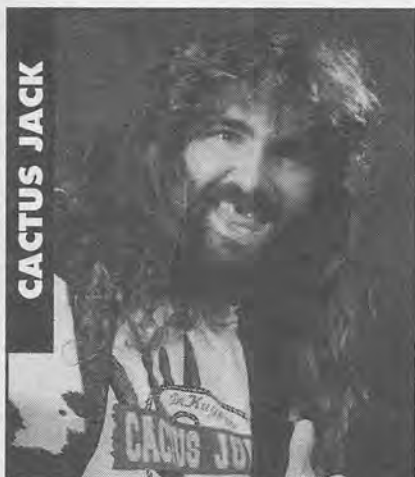
DiBiase also claims he now "owns" the impoverished **Nikolai Volkoff** and told me he plans to add more wrestlers to his camp.

The Quebecers look like they've seen their last days as a team; **Jacques** might be leaving the WWF soon. Ironically, his brother **Raymond** recently returned to the mats in the federation.

KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

CACTUS JACK



Scorpio might be gone from WCW, but he's active on the independent circuit. He's matched high-flying skills with **Sabu** in several federations. Cactus Jack is reportedly considering wrestling in ECW full-time later this year.

The bizarre **Tommy Cairo-Sandman** feud continues in ECW. Cairo is allied with **Peaches**, Sandman's estranged wife. Sandman has **Woman** with him, and the four have been involved in numerous "Singapore caning" matches.

Strange days for Smoky Mountain champ **Jake Roberts**. He beat **Tony Anthony** for that belt in May, then even injured "Dirty White Girl" **Kimberly** with a DDT after a rematch with the "Dirty White Boy." He didn't have it so good in Tijuana, Mexico. He lost a hair-vs.-hair match to **Konnor** and was shaved bald!

The other Smoky Mountain newcomers are having mixed success. **Bruiser Bedlam** has defeated **Tracey Smothers** in several coal miner's glove bouts, Smothers' specialty, while **Kendo the Samurai** is losing his share of bouts to Anthony.

The **Rock 'n' Roll Express** hoped

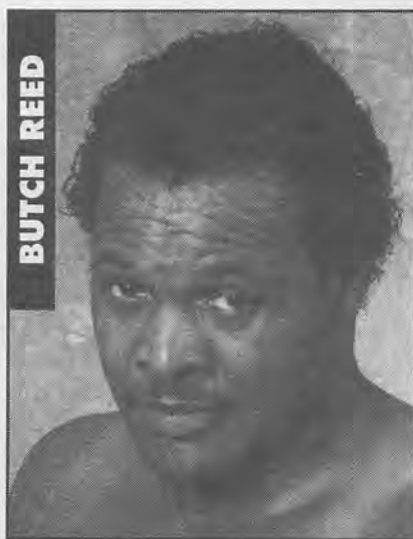
to get revenge against tag champs **Brian Lee** and **Chris Candido** in a series of piledriver matches. Unfortunately, most of them have gotten so out of control that they've been declared no-contests.

Jerry Lawler is still USWA champ. He's beaten **Eddie Gilbert**, **Troy Graham**, and now **Bam Bam Bigelow**, who made a few trips to Memphis. "The King" even got revenge on referee-turned-rulebreaker **Scott Bowden** in a tag team bout.

J.C. Ice and **Wolfie D** are the USWA tag champs. That's odd considering when last seen in Memphis a few months ago, they were heated rivals who both lost loser-leaves-town matches on the same night.

The Global title is held up after a controversial match between then-champ **Rod Price** and **Butch Reed** ...

BUTCH REED



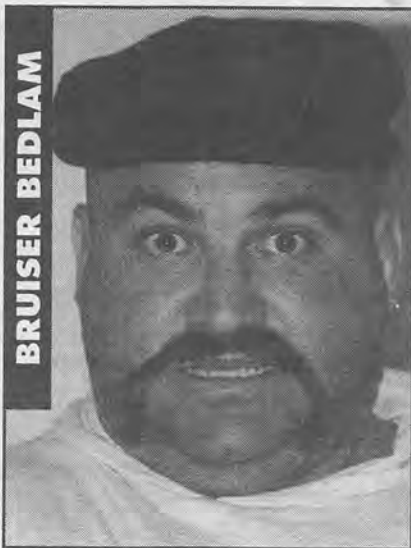
ences to beat **Terry Austin** and **Austin Steele**, whom South once managed, for the tag team title ... **King Kong Bundy** is wrestling on a semiregular basis in the WWA, where he lost two bouts to 500-pound heavyweight champ **Frank Finnegan**.

Bad days for Florida manager **Sir Ronald J. Niemi**: He was banned from two federations recently. He left the Plant City Wrestling Federation after protegee **Bill Pain** lost a match. A week later, another prematch stipulation forced him out of the Florida Wrestling Alliance when **Jeff Bradley**, another member of his stable, lost a match.

Finally, some sad news to report. American Commonwealth Wrestling promoter **Mark Bodey** was killed in an automobile accident in Pennsylvania on May 12. Bodey, who signed the first Terry Funk-Sabu match, was 26.

Also, veteran wrestler **Ray Candy** died of a heart attack on May 23 at age 43. He was once part of **The Zambue Express** with **Leroy Brown**. My condolences to the families of both men. □

BRUISER BEDLAM



Freebirds **Jim Garvin** and **Terry Gordy** are GWF tag team champs. They beat **John Hawk** and **Black Bart**.

Old rivals **George South** and **Italian Stallion** put aside their differ-

THE TELEPHONE RINGS. I do not answer it. Publisher Stu Saks is leaving a message about travel itinerary for the upcoming "King Of The Ring" tournament. I ignore it.

I am not moving. Do you understand that? I am not moving. I am sitting in front of my home computer, my already awful eyesight getting worse with each second I stare into the screen. But I don't care. Directly to my right, five feet away, is an air conditioner.

Right now, the air conditioner is on "normal cool," a phrase I often use to describe myself. The jet of 12,000 British Thermal Units emanating from this wonderful machine is strong enough to give me goosebumps. Do you want to know what a sore winner is? I am considering putting on a turtleneck sweater, just to rub it in.

The first heat wave has hit New York. Five years ago, you could almost get through a New York summer without an air conditioner. That was before New York mysteriously transformed into Miami, without the pastel colors. How hot is it? I'm having my cigarettes delivered. Like I said, I am not moving. I am going to sit here and play with my computer until September.

There is a spell-check function on my computer. It has a glossary approaching 100,000 words or 1,000 wrestling fans, whichever you prefer. However, proper and improper names are not among its glossary. If you want the spell-check function to skip over a name like Hulk Hogan, you have to add the name to the glossary. I have not added any names to the glossary. Maybe I will get around to that this summer, because, like I said, I am not moving.

When the spell-check function comes across a

ON THE ROAD

With Chris Bernucca

word with which it is not familiar, it sometimes offers suggestions. For example, the suggested word for my first name is "chirps." Thanks, but I know how to spell chirps, and I am not that bad a typist.

However, some of the suggestions it spits out for wrestlers are quite amusing and appear to have some sort of double entendre (a word, by the way, not included in the glossary). Sometimes it suggests nothing at all,

as it does for my last name. My C drive has confirmed what I have always believed—that I am one of a kind.

The suggested words for Jerry Lawler's last name are lawless and lawyer. Given his recent run-ins with the law, that would make sense. The suggestions for Hogan are hog, hogged, and hogging. Given his penchant for being in the limelight and his recent foray into WCW, I'd say the spell-check was right on the money.

Other replacement words seem to perfectly characterize the sport's figures. Cornet, a musical wind instrument, is suggested for Jim Cornette, who can often be full of hot air. Male and marble are the suggestions for Mabel, who, come to think of it, looks like a 500-pound male marble. Monody (a word I

had to look up; it means ode or elegy) is suggested for Moondog. Perhaps the spell-check envisioned a baying Spot. Henna, a hair coloring, is the offered word for the last name of Bobby Heenan. I don't know what "The Brain" is doing to his hair, but I doubt that phosphorous gold tint is natural.

Some wrestlers can find their career paths in the suggested words. For Scott Steiner, advice comes from his first name in the form of scoot, which is what

(Continued on page 72)



When a computer spell-check runs across Jim Cornette's last name, it shows the word "cornet," a musical instrument. Many wrestling fans would argue that Jimbo plays nothing but sour notes.

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Hulk Hogan hails from which California beach community?

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- 3) Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

At what University did Ron Simmons play football?

- 1) Notre Dame
- 2) Florida State University
- 3) Michigan State University
- 4) Oglethorpe University

True or False: Giant Gonzales competed in the 1984 Olympics as a member of Argentina's water polo team

- 1) True
- 2) False

The Undertaker was once tag team partners with...

- 1) Lou Albano
- 2) Sergeant Slaughter
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) None of the above

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Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

KEVIN SULLIVAN LIKES watching people argue, and Cactus Jack is amazed by "some of the things women are wearing these days." Evad Sullivan, Kevin's brother, gets confused by "Don't Walk" signs, and I was just about at wit's end by the time my boys' night out with these three men was through.

"We're gonna have a good time," Sullivan proclaimed when I met them near the entrance of Atlanta's Center Stage Theater. But, as I discovered four hours later, this crazy trio had no intention of catching dinner and a show or maybe checking out one of the local bars.

They just parked themselves on a busy corner of Peachtree Street in downtown and watched the world go by.

Or at least their version of the world.

"Going my way, sweetie?" Evad asked with a leering look as a Southern belle walked by.

The young woman actually stopped for a moment, looked him up and down, and then saw Jack. That's when she turned away with a look of absolute disgust.

Jack told Evad, "She wasn't

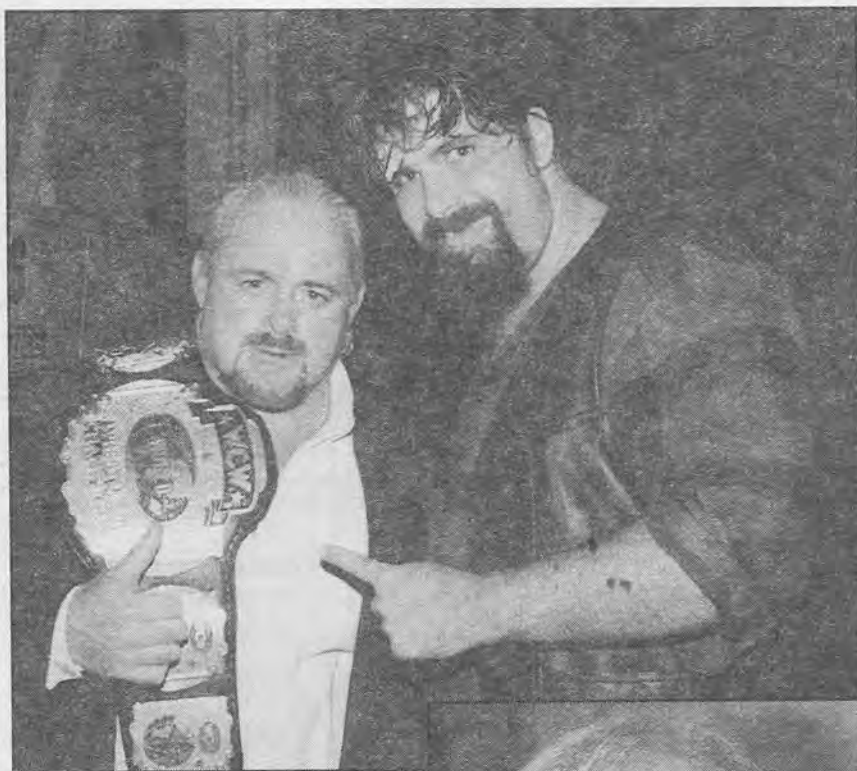
right for you, anyway. You know, I can't believe some of the things women are wearing these days."

Cactus should be amazed, considering he doesn't remember what women were wearing a year ago. Actually, he doesn't remember *anything* that happened a year ago.

tion. She was calling him cheap.

"You're right," Sullivan interrupted. "He is cheap. And you know what? I betcha those credit cards aren't even his. In fact, I betcha he stole them from that man right there."

Sullivan pointed to his brother. Evad was completely confused.



Enjoying the Atlanta nightlife with Kevin Sullivan and Cactus Jack (above), not to mention Kevin's dyslexic brother Evad (right), can certainly be called a bizarre experience.

By this time, Evad was picking his nails and Kevin Sullivan was getting in the middle of an argument between a young couple. We were standing in front of the Coach and Six restaurant—a great steak house I hoped we'd actually go into—when this man and woman started getting into it.

He wanted to eat at the Coach and Six. She wanted to go to The Dining Room, the most elegant restaurant in Atlanta. He checked out his wallet and decided The Dining Room was out of the ques-



"Right, Dave?" Sullivan asked.

"Uh" Evad responded.

The couple ignored them. She refused to walk into the Coach and Six. The man called her "a

(Continued on page 74)

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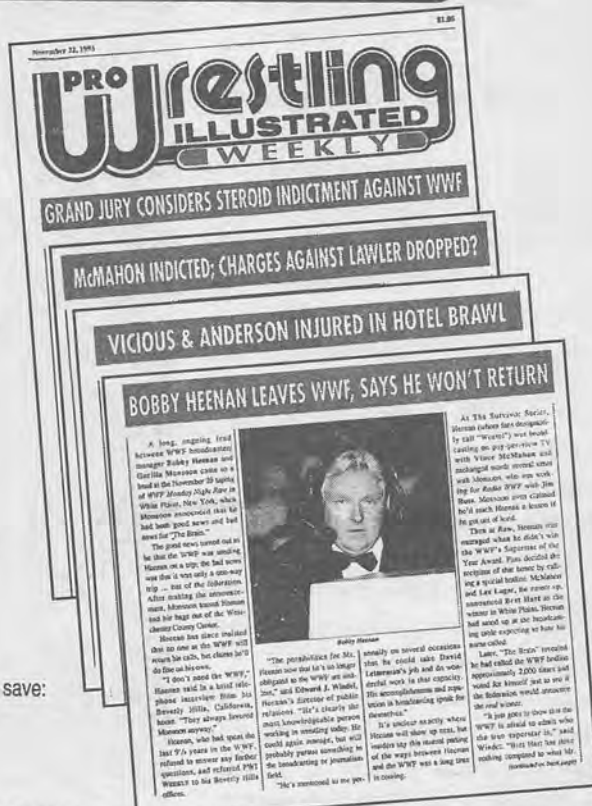
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the Insider

by Eddie Ellner

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

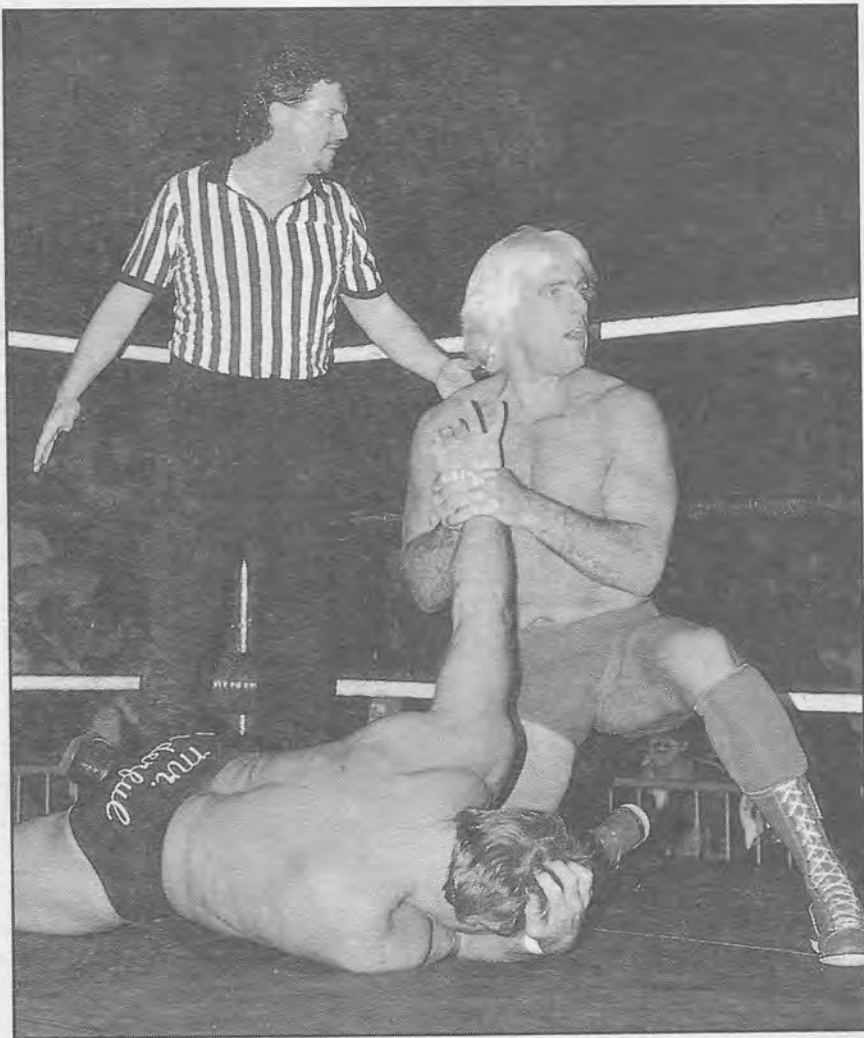
I'M NOT THE biggest New York Ranger fan in the world, or even on this masthead, but let's face it, the seventh game of the Stanley Cup Finals is about as pure a sporting event as you're gonna come across. So it was frustrating to know that the night of the game, I would not be sitting in section 33D, Seat 2 at Madison Square Garden, but instead, miles away from New York, covering Ric Flair, when the deciding game of the Rangers-Vancouver Canucks series was to be played.

"Just another World title defense?" I asked Publisher Stu Saks. Bad question.

"Eddie," Saks replied sternly, "there's no such thing as *just* another World title defense." He added meekly: "By the way, Eddie, what are you doing with your ticket to the game?"

Fat chance, Saks. I gave my ticket to Bill Apter, doing my bit to add to the long suffering of whatever Ranger fans sat beside him. I was not rooting against the Rangers, but imagine the psychic casualties if the Rangers lost, having taken their fans as close to glory as they have been since 1940, when they last won the Cup? It would have been a rule-breaker's dream.

I brought a small TV to the



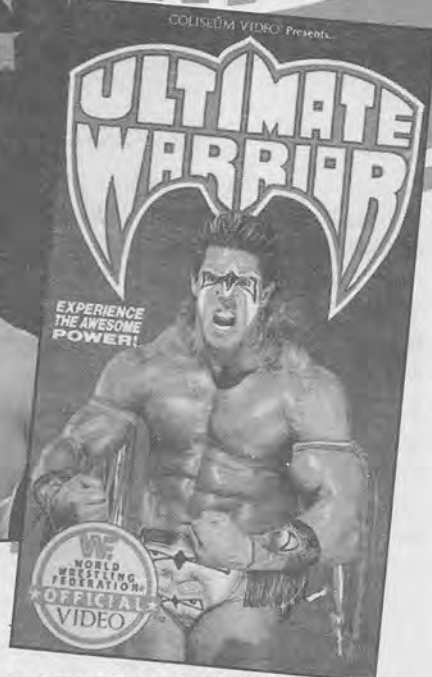
Ellner admits he's not the most avid of New York Ranger fans, but did want to see the Broadway Blues finally end their 54-year Stanley Cup drought. Instead, the office sent him far away from Manhattan to cover the Flair-Orndorff WCW World title match.

arena and prayed the match against Paul Orndorff would end fast enough to catch the last period live at a neighborhood bar. Of course, I was in a town where they probably never heard of ice hockey, and the only Stanley they know is the company that makes farm tools.

I spoke to Flair in the locker room before the match and it turned out we shared something in common. He, too, was furious he was missing the game. "I told the promoter I didn't want to wrestle tonight," he said. "I feel like walking out."

(Continued on page 76)

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STING: DEADLY VENOM (pictured)

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ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

[Editor's note: Please make sure you have read "The Insider" before proceeding to "On Assignment."]

NOW I CAN admit: I am one of those Ranger fans, the kind who when asked what they are don't respond with their name or a profession or religious affiliation—we say we are Ranger fans. In fact, the only reason I didn't become a hockey writer was because the first newspaper I worked for in upstate New York had six full-time hockey reporters. I was given the wrestling/boxing beat and fell in love. But if you cut me, I bleed Rangers' red, white, and blue.

The morning of the game I received a phone call from my closest friend, someone I've known my whole life and who recently moved from New York. We had not spoken in three years, the result of a horrible and stupid falling out. As teenagers, we went on road trips, following the Rangers across the country. Now she was asking me if I would fly out and watch the game with her?

The night of the seventh game of the Stanley Cup was supposed to be spent in the privacy of my apartment. Would I have preferred rink level seats at the Garden? No way. I had been to four playoff games this year and each time the Rangers lost. When I watched the

game at home, they were undefeated. I remember Rick Steamboat, the most level-headed of wrestlers, describing at a press conference the dozens of superstitions he observed before entering the ring. Other reporters made fun of him. I understood. The lives of Ranger fans are regulated by superstition.



Known for his slow starts, Flair was all over Orndorff from the outset, hoping to score a quick pin and get to a TV set to watch the big game.

Suddenly, it all made sense. What better way to celebrate the first Stanley Cup in 54 years than to reconcile with my best friend during the game?

I was on the next flight, wearing my Mike Richter sweater, then rented a car at the small airport and began the 168-mile drive to my friend's lakeside home. They were lonely, isolated highway miles and I spent the time reviewing highlights of the past season, growing more and more excited to see my friend.

While daydreaming, I made a wrong turn and ended up on a dirt highway that forked twice. After 25 or so miles, I no longer trusted my navigational instincts and made a U-turn to double back. It was still early. The game wasn't going to start for another three hours. And right then, as I smiled thinking of the two of us reunited for the biggest game of our lives, my car stopped. Dead. Nothing. No gas, no electricity. I wasn't stuck in the middle of nowhere, because I had passed nowhere about 40 miles down the road. I started to cry. And then I started to walk. What else could I do?

At first I thought it was a mirage. There was a small neon Miller Beer sign stuck in the middle of the barren highway. There was no traffic—I had walked for 22 miles and was not passed by a single car. What idiot would stick a bar in the middle of nothing? I hoped I wasn't too far from my friend's. Maybe she could pick me

(Continued on page 78)

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March 1989

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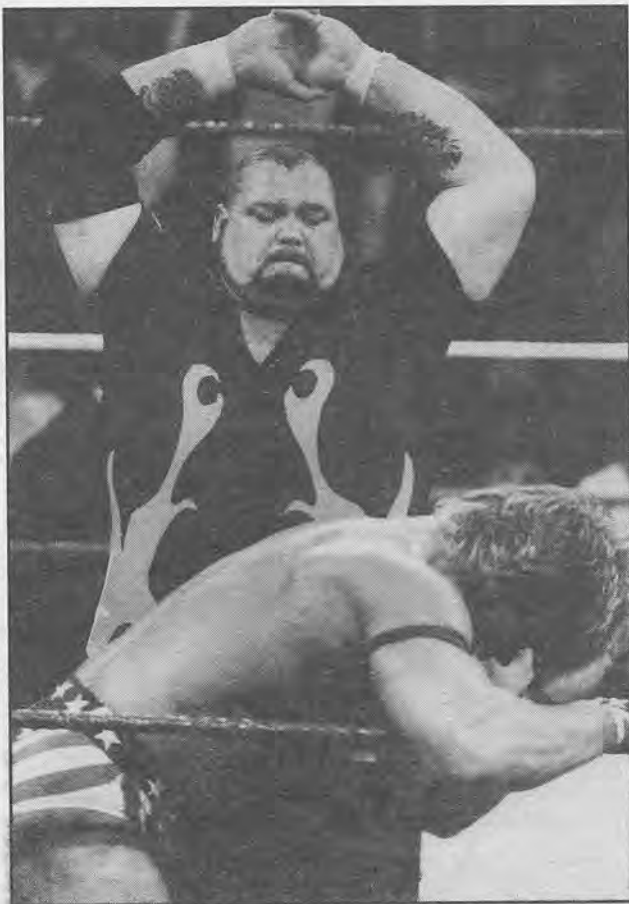
INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE 219

BAM BAM BIGELOW

ONE OF WRESTLING'S premier super heavyweights, Bam Bam Bigelow has uncommon agility and skill for someone his size.

Although he's made his mark in the WWF, he hasn't yet equaled the heights he reached in Japan (*"That's the biggest lie ever!"*) ... The "Beast From The East," a former bounty hunter, is a native of South Jersey and the most famous alumnus of Larry Sharpe's renowned "Monster Factory" wrestling school ... The 6'3", 368-pound Bigelow turned pro in 1985, making his debut at New York's famed Studio 54 nightclub ... Soon headed to the Mid-Southern area, and then to Texas-based World Class, where he adopted a pro-Soviet ideology as Crusher Yurkof (*"Boy, that made those fan favorites down there mad!"*) ... Reverted to Bigelow when he returned to Mid-Southern. There he teamed with former foe Jerry Lawler to face Tommy Rich and Austin Idol ... Joined WWF for first time in 1987, choosing Oliver Humperdink as his manager, but he did little there and left the federation a year later (*"Sometimes you get a bit ahead of schedule"*) ... By this time,

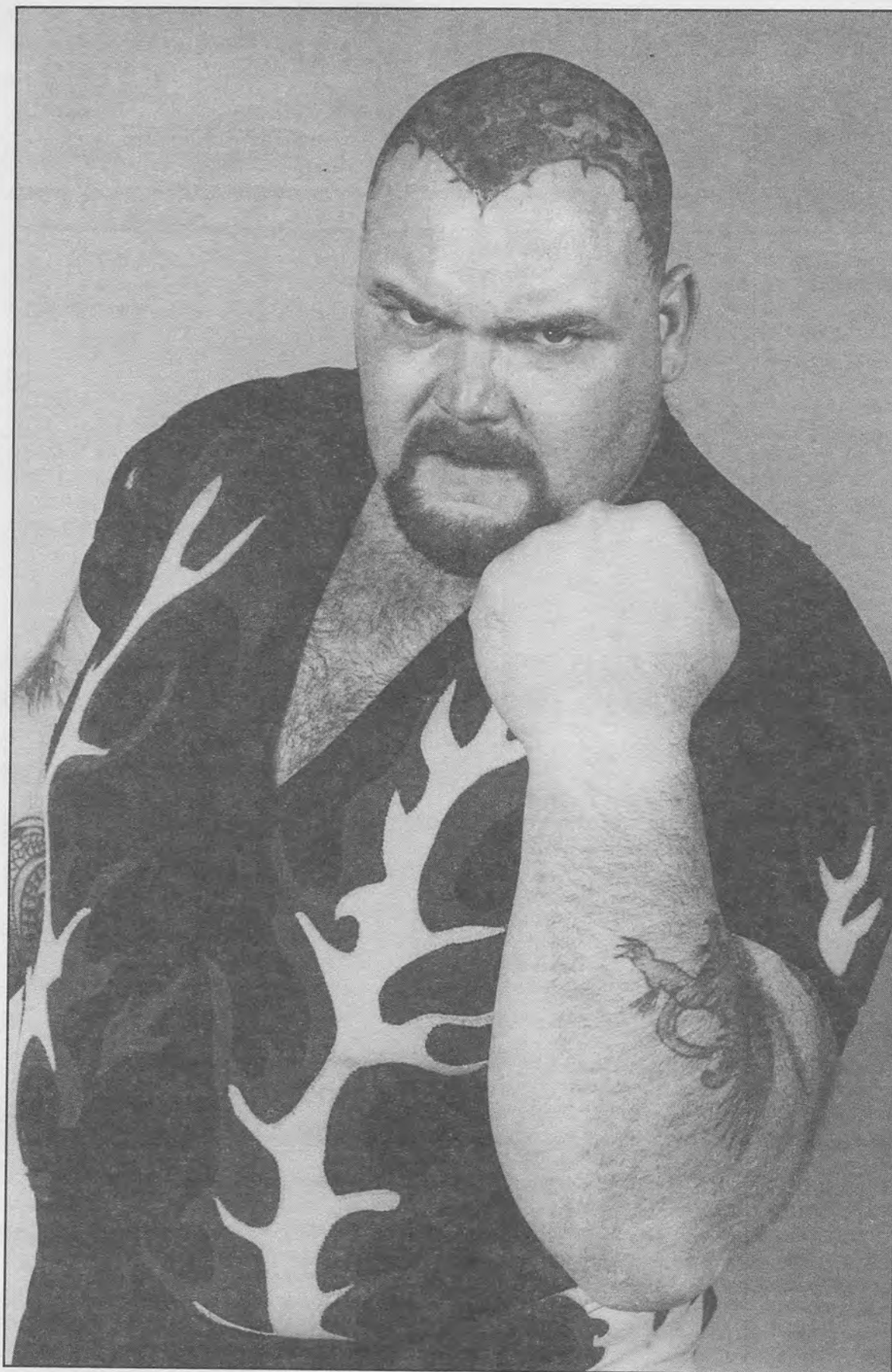
Bigelow had been discovered by Big Van Vader, who brought him along on a tour of Japan ... The style of wrestling intrigued him, and he learned much there while becoming one of Japan's most popular foreign wrestlers (*"A great experience"*) ... Briefly joined WCW and feuded with



Bam Bam Bigelow (pummeling Lex Luger) has yet to win a title in the WWF, but the "Beast From The East" has earned respect as the federation's most athletic super heavyweight.

Barry Windham, then U.S. champion, but didn't stay long ... Felt more at home in domestic independents when he wasn't wrestling overseas ... Achieved his greatest Japanese success on March 1, 1992, when he and

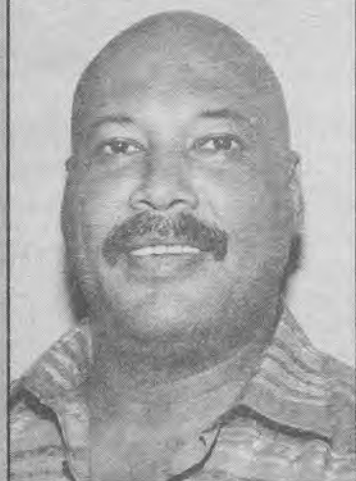
Vader conquered Hiroshi Hase and The Great Muta in Yokohama to capture the New Japan IWGP tag team belts (*"That night was something very special!"*) ... Bigelow and Vader were champions until Rick and Scott Steiner beat them on June 26 of that year ... His second WWF stint began late in 1992. This time he was ready ... Targeted Virgil, Big Bossman, and Tatanka, but also earned matches with World champion Bret Hart ... Reached the finals of the 1993 "King Of The Ring" tournament ... Pinned Hart but was inadvertently thwarted by his "main squeeze," Luna Vachon, who had hit Hart with a chair as he lay on the arena floor. The match was ordered resumed, and Hart won (*"Luna was just being enthusiastic, that's all"*) ... He and Vachon got caught in an improbable feud with Doink, the rulebreaking clown turned fan favorite, and his midget friend Dink ... At first, the jesters dominated the series, but Bigelow and Vachon turned the tables and beat them at WrestleMania X in March (*"They should've been at Madison Square Garden for Ringling Brothers. Clowns and wrestling don't mix!"*) ... Signed with Ted DiBiase after "King Of The Ring" (*"DiBiase's one of the smartest guys in wrestling"*) ... Remains the WWF's most athletic big man. □



BAM BAM BIGELOW

Where Are They NOW

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



JOSE ESTRADA

The former WWF light heavyweight champion and tag teammate of Johnny Rodz has returned to his native Puerto Rico, where he is security supervisor of a San Juan hotel. While he wrestles every now and then, most of his mat time is spent

training his two sons, who wrestle in Mexico and Japan as well as Puerto Rico. "They're going to have fine professional careers, mark my words," Estrada says. "I like to think it runs in the family."



BOB FREED

"Friendly" Bob's enthusiastic announcing style made him a popular personality on WWF cards around the Northeast during the 1960s and early-1970s. These days, he's retired and living in the Washington suburb of Kensington, Maryland. Freed keeps

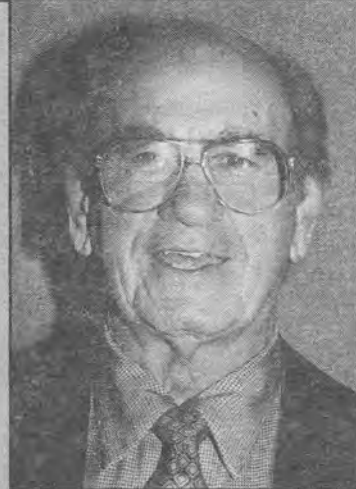
himself going as a volunteer at a local senior citizens' center, where he hosts celebrity forums and other events. "It's important to enjoy the things you do," he says.



DON MURACO

He calls himself "Magnificent," and his career been precisely that. The two-time WWF Intercontinental champion—who won one title in 1981 under The Grand Wizard, the other in 1983 under the tutelage of Capt. Lou Albano—now spends his

spare time relaxing on the shores of Hawaii. "I savor the sunshine like I savor my many victories in the ring," Muraco says. He's part-owner of a gymnasium, and periodically wrestles on cards in the Aloha State.



LOU THESZ

Still going strong at 78, the legendary former NWA champion lives in Norfolk, Virginia, where he operates a wrestling school. Thesz also regularly makes trips to Japan. His remarkable mat career spanned parts of seven

decades, and he's faced everyone from Gus Sonnenberg to the original Gorgeous George to Masa Chono. He issued a 50-minute videotape, *The Lou Thesz Story*, looking back on his matches and many noteworthy opponents.

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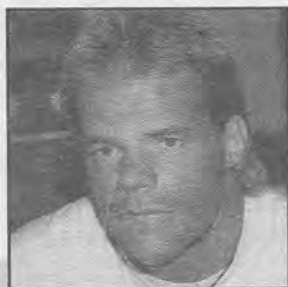
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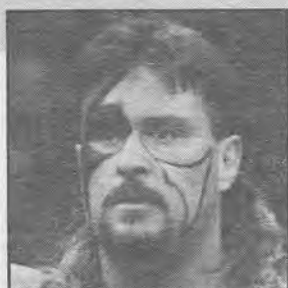
CONSUMER DISCLOSURE: No purchase/phone call required. To enter by mail, print/affix your name address, phone number and birthdate (no staples) on a standard USPS 19c postcard and mail to CCL Sweepstakes, 1650 Limekiln Pk., #400, Dresher, PA 19025. Open to US residents 13 yrs. and older. CA residents must be 18. Improper, incomplete and illegible entries are disqualified. Sweepstakes void in AR, GA, LA, MN, NJ, OR, VT and where prohibited by law. Odds of winning the grand prize depend on number of eligible entries received. One winner chosen by random drawing. Prize is 2 tickets to a concert in any city in the continental US of winner's choice, subject to availability, accommodations at a luxury hotel for 2 for one night's stay, roundtrip coach airfare for 2 to city where concert is being held, limousine transportation to and from airport and to and from concert, plus \$1,000 cash. Approx. retail value of prize package: \$2,500. One winner will be selected at random by Pine, Feinstein & Associates, Inc., an independent organization whose decisions are final. Sweepstakes starts 2/1/94 and ends 9/30/94. Phone calls must be received by 11:59pm, 9/30/94. Mail entries must be postmarked by 9/30/94 and received by 10/7/94. Callers to the 800 number will be provided with a calling card account #. Instructed to redial the 800 number and input their account # to enter sweepstakes. Touchtone phone required. Rotary callers will be referred to a 900 number at a cost of \$2.99/min. Avg. call 3 min/\$8.97. Caller bonus void in CA. Sweepstakes subject to Complete Official Rules. To get a copy of Complete Official Rules and/or name of winner, send a self-addressed stamped envelope indicating specific request to CCL Sweepstakes Rules, 1650 Limekiln Pk., #400, Dresher, PA 19025 (WA, CA, & VT residents need not affix postage). This promotion sponsored by Concert Connection, Ltd., 1650 Limekiln Pk., #400, Dresher, PA 19025, 215-641-0676.

NEWS FROM THE WR

ROSEMONT, IL BY RON SMITH



LEX LUGER VS. CRUSH



The fans cheered Luger at the start of the match, but Crush was quick to turn the momentum in his favor. He concentrated his attack on Luger's back. Lex was clearly in pain for several minutes until he caught Crush with a kneelift and elbowdrop. While he continued brawling with Crush, the original referee was knocked out. Crush grabbed a chair, trying to hit Luger with it while leaping off the second rope. Lex wisely ducked, then smashed Crush with a forearm. An alternate official made the three-count.

OTHER BOUTS: Kwang the Ninja pinned Sparky Plugg ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Mabel ... The Headshrinkers & Afa beat The Quebecers & Johnny Polo ... WWF World Women's champion Alundra Blayze beat Luna Vachon ... Jeff Jarrett pinned Doink the Clown ... Intercontinental champion Diesel and Razor Ramon battled to a double-countout ... WWF World champion Bret Hart pinned Owen Hart.

MEMPHIS, TN BY PHIL SEAWRIGHT



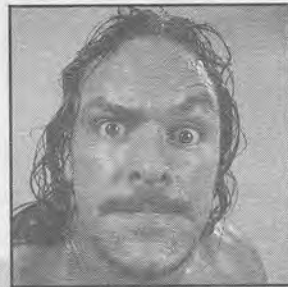
JERRY LAWLER VS. EDDIE GILBERT



Lawler didn't put his USWA title on the line this time, but knew that if he won, he'd get five minutes in the ring with referee-turned-rule-breaker Scott Bowden. Gilbert wore a neck brace to the ring, while Bowden arrived in a wheelchair. Both claimed to have been hurt in car accidents. Bowden tried to convince the referee that Gilbert couldn't wrestle, but as he was doing this, Eddie jumped Lawler. "The King" recovered and was ready to put Gilbert away. That's when Bowden entered the ring and smashed Lawler with his leg brace. The referee didn't see Bowden's interference and made the three-count on Lawler.

OTHER BOUTS: Wolfie D beat Ian Rotten ... Spike Huber defeated Axl Rotten by disqualification ... USWA tag team champions The Eliminators beat The Spiders ... Southern champion Brian Christopher pinned Doug Gilbert ... Troy Graham & Bam Bam Bigelow defeated Jerry Lawler & Brian Christopher.

MONTGOMERYVILLE, PA BY JOE VINCENT



SABU VS. 2 COLD SCORPIO



Two aerialists collided in a thriller! Early on in this bout, Scorpio knocked Sabu down with a backflip from the ring apron, then used a "Frankensteiner." Sabu later took the offensive. Then with Scorpio trapped in one corner, Sabu set up a chair in front of him. He raced from the opposite end of the ring and jumped onto the chair and into Scorpio. Later, 911, Sabu's handler, grabbed Scorpio and slammed him onto a press table. Sabu leaped from inside the ring and splashed 2 Cold. Scorpio was rolled back into the ring, and Sabu pinned him a few seconds later.

OTHER BOUTS: Chad Austin pinned Hack Meyer ... 911 defeated Dino Saloff & Joel Hartgood in a handicap match ... Pit Bull Psycho Mike beat Donn E. Allen ... Tommy Cairo pinned The Sandman in a falls-count-anywhere match ... ECW tag team champions Public Enemy beat J.T. Smith & Tommy Dreamer ... ECW TV champion Mikey Whipwreck defeated The Rockin' Rebel.

ESTLING CAPITALS

**KNOXVILLE, TN
BY RON DONNELLY**



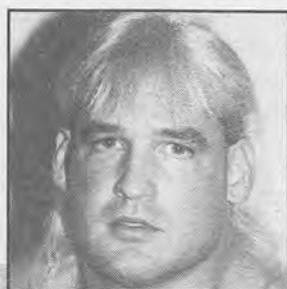
**RANDY SAVAGE
VS.
BRUISER BEDLAM**



The "Macho Man" was ready for his initial Smoky Mountain match, and so were the fans. They gave Savage an ovation and the "Macho Man" responded by dominating Bedlam for much of the match. Savage had Bob Armstrong in his corner to make sure Jim Cornette didn't interfere. But when Dory Funk Jr. came to ringside, it was too much for Armstrong and Savage to handle. The "Macho Man" was about to execute an elbowdrop from the top rope when Funk pushed him off the ropes. With the referee distracted, Cornette threw powder in Savage's eyes. Before Savage could recover, Bedlam hit him with brass knuckles and pinned him.

OTHER BOUTS: Tracey Smothers beat Kendo the Samurai ... The Thrillseekers defeated Well Dunn ... SMW tag team champions Brian Lee & Chris Candido beat The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... SMW champion Jake Roberts and Tony Anthony wrestled to a no-contest.

**ANTLERS, OK
BY GEORGE WARREN**



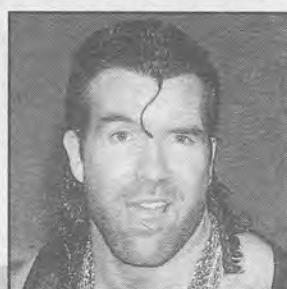
**ROD PRICE
VS.
BUTCH REED**



Price put his Global heavyweight title on the line on this Power Zone Wrestling Alliance card, and "Hacksaw" was determined to win the championship. He used several power moves to keep Price off-balance, and the champion found himself forced to take a breather outside the ring several times. Price eventually earned several two-counts. The match ended chaotically, when Price rolled up Reed for the pinfall, although his own shoulders were also on the mat. The referee was out of position and counted the double-pinfall, even though both Reed and Price lifted their shoulders before the three-count. Global officials met for several minutes to resolve the situation, eventually declaring the title held up pending a rematch between the two.

OTHER BOUTS: Casey Cannon pinned TNT after a flying bodypress ... Tom Jones defeated The Shadow by disqualification ... The Liberty Kid pinned TNT with a small package.

**AUBURN HILLS, MI
BY JOHN HARMON**



**RAZOR RAMON
VS.
DIESEL**



The Palace crowd was at a fever pitch when Ramon's music began playing. But before Ramon got to the ring, the ring announcer was told that Intercontinental champ Diesel wouldn't wrestle unless he was introduced first. Finally, both got to the ring. Diesel wore down Ramon with punches and kicks, but the "Bad Guy" fought back and got Diesel in position for his "Razor's Edge." The I-C champ reversed it into a back-bodydrop, sending Ramon to the floor. Outside, Diesel tried to use a chair, but was stopped by the referee, who counted out both men.

OTHER BOUTS: Mabel defeated Bam Bam Bigelow ... Jeff Jarrett beat Doink the Clown ... The Headshrinkers & Afa defeated The Quebecers & Johnny Polo ... Kwang the Ninja beat Sparky Plugg ... WWF World Women's champion Alundra Blayze pinned Luna Vachon ... Lex Luger defeated Crush ... WWF World champion Bret Hart beat Owen Hart.



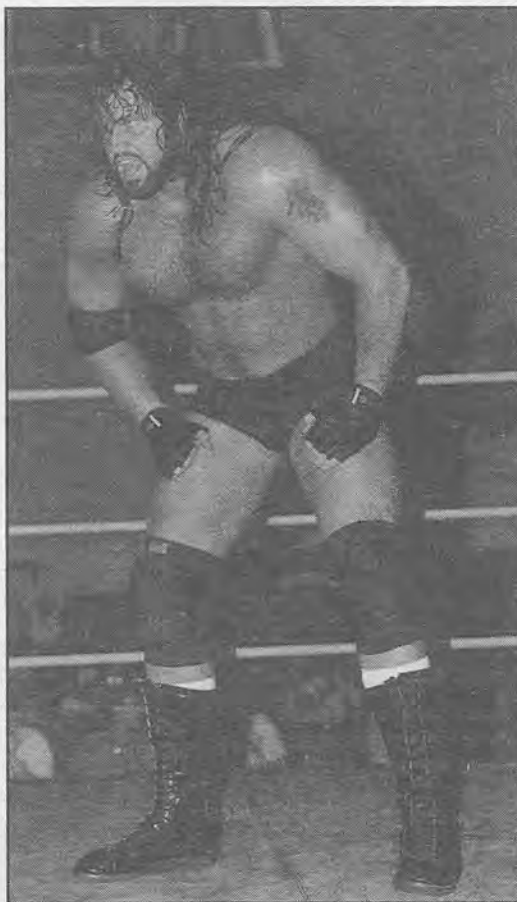
Matt Brock's **Plain Speaking**

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

European tours might be good for a federation's bank account and public image, but they do nothing for the wrestlers except exhaust them and make them susceptible to injury. If I'm tired after a few weeks on tour, I can't imagine how the wrestlers must feel. (Though they're in slightly better shape than yours truly. No deadline pressure, no high cholesterol.) The Kid

looked sluggish in his match against Sparky Plugg, and Kid never looks sluggish. The Headshrinkers beat The Quebecers in a tag team title match and neither team looked too thrilled to be there. The crowd's interest was piqued only when Owen Hart wrestled Bret Hart.

KASSEL, GERMANY



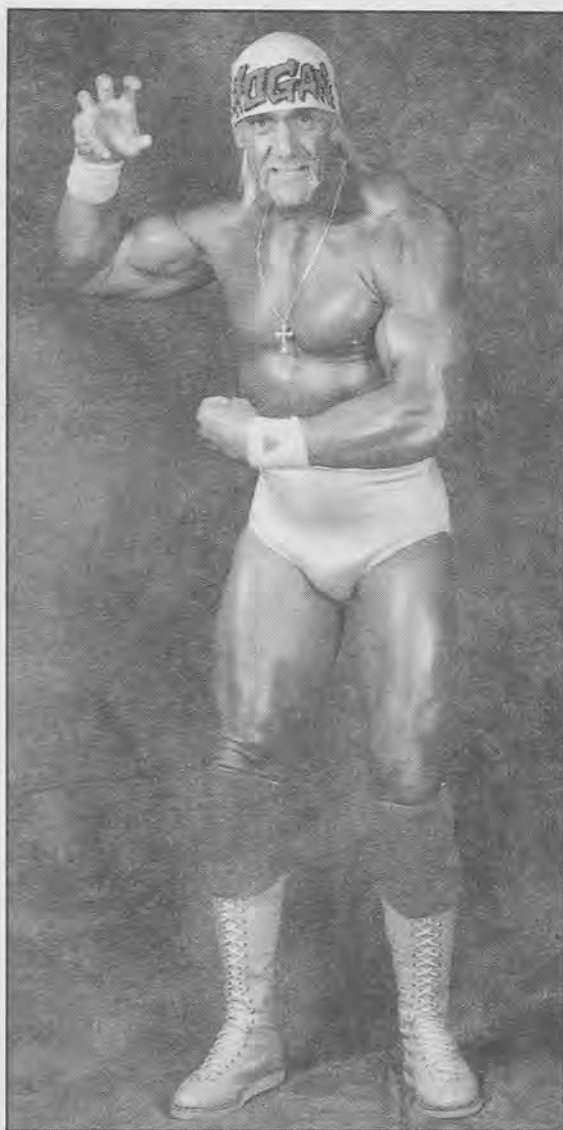
ADAM BOMB

The Germans love family feuds (somebody told me that's how adidas and Puma, the sneaker giants, were born) and this one seems to have grabbed their attention. Well, I could think of worse family feuds. I'm just glad Randy Savage vs. Lanny Poffo only feuded briefly before burying the hatchets. The Bushwhackers wrestled Kwang the Ninja and Adam Bomb, too, and that was interesting because Kwang and Bomb signed the contract before they started feuding. They lost, but maybe Kwang and Bomb have realized by now that manager Harvey Wippleman is at the root of their problems. Wippleman is one of the worst managers that ever lived and his wrestlers generally go downhill from the moment he signs them. Bomb had great potential, but now he looks totally lost in the ring. Too bad. If it's true that a manager can do great

things for a wrestler, he can hurt him, too. Look at Rick Rude. Managers never did anything for him but take 10 percent of his gross.

Got an invitation from WCW the other day inviting me to a press conference introducing Hulk Hogan. Thought better about attending when I saw it was being held at Disney-MGM Studios—it had all the markings of a publicity stunt—but then I called the people at WCW and they assured me Hogan would answer my questions. Fine. I booked a flight to Orlando, managed to find a hotel that wasn't scalping World Cup visitors \$200 a room, and showed up at the press

ORLANDO, FL



HULK HOGAN

better for Hogan if he wrote out the questions himself. As for WCW, I'll think twice the next time I attend one of their press conferences. Maybe they'll think about that the next time they have something really important to say.

Baltimore Arena is now to wrestling what Madison Square Garden used to be. The fans here rank among the most knowledgeable in the world and are certainly the most supportive. When WCW and WWF officials go looking for a location for a pay-per-view event, Baltimore is always near the top of the list. There's good reason for that. There are four or five hotels within walking distance of the arena, and the Inner Harbor is about a half-mile away. Not a bad place for

tournaments are always held in one night. It's grueling, sure, but a different kind of test for the wrestlers. Stamina and heart aren't bad things to gauge in a man.

The heat and humidity are oppressive, but this city's not complaining. Not after the great performances of its Madison Square Garden tenants, the hockey Rangers and the basketball Knicks. Only Bruno Sammartino and Hulk Hogan in their prime caused the big round house above Penn Station to rock as it did at Game 7 of the Stanley Cup finals. Never realized hockey fans—loyal as they are—could be as vocal as their wrestling counterparts. Nice to see them learn what intensity's all about. Things like this make me glad I'm a sportswriter, not some TV hack chasing down L.A.'s latest scandal. □

NEW YORK, NY

BALTIMORE, MD

conference on time. Hogan? He was late. Think he had to go to the bathroom or something. Couldn't he have held it for another 15 minutes? Then the press conference starts and they don't even have seats for the media. Got me stuck way in the back and it's pretty obvious the "Hulkster" isn't going to be answering my questions. Instead, some hack up front asks Hogan to show his "24-inch pythons," and I thought right there it might be a good idea to find a new profession. Is that what passes for reporting these days? Another idiot asks Hogan what he has to prove. Basically, the press conference couldn't have gone

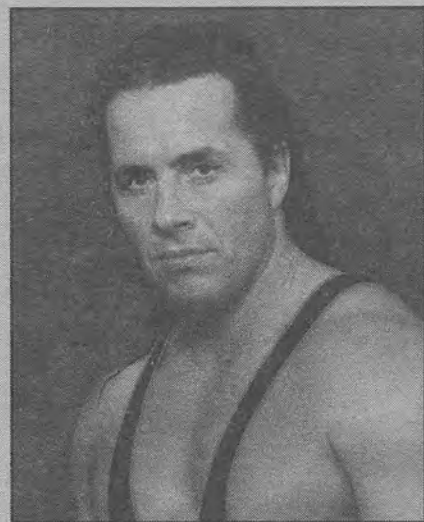
wrestlers to spend a few days. The fans always come out and seem to feed off the spectacle of pay-per-views. This is a good one. "King Of The Ring" has become one of the more interesting events on the WWF calendar. Even I was shocked to see Owen Hart, with Jim Neidhart's help, win the whole thing. To me, it's just a notch below the Royal Rumble. I usually care little for one-night tournaments, but once a year never hurt anyone. Besides, wrestlers should be used to competing three or four times in one night. That's how it was when they were amateurs. City and state



OWEN HART

WHO WOULD YOU PICK FOR YOUR FANTASY WRESTLING ALLIANCE?

You've won the lottery and don't know what to do with the money. You like wrestling, so you start your own promotion. What five wrestlers must you get at any cost to become a successful promoter? The answers are right here

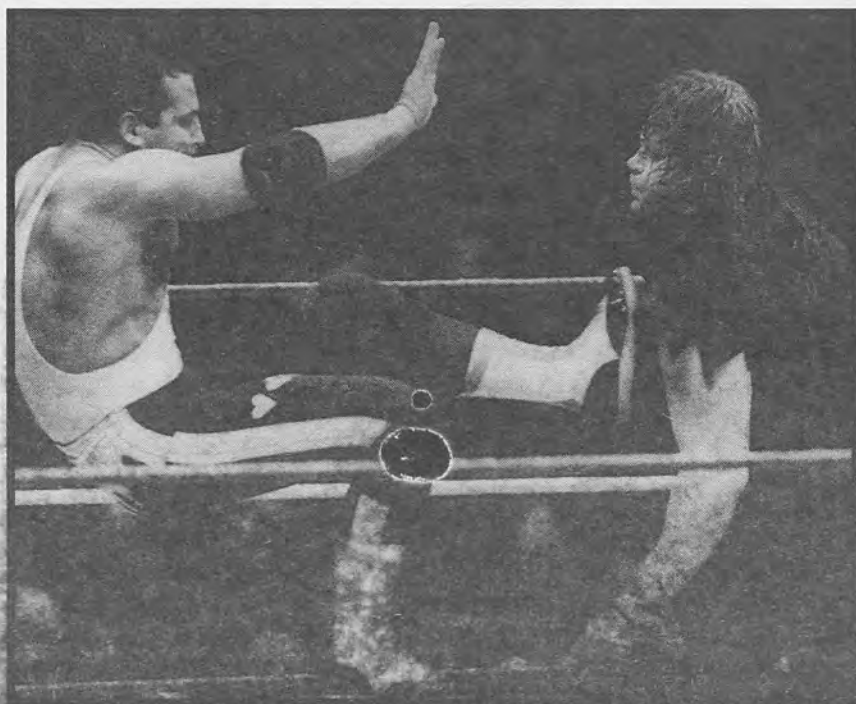


HART

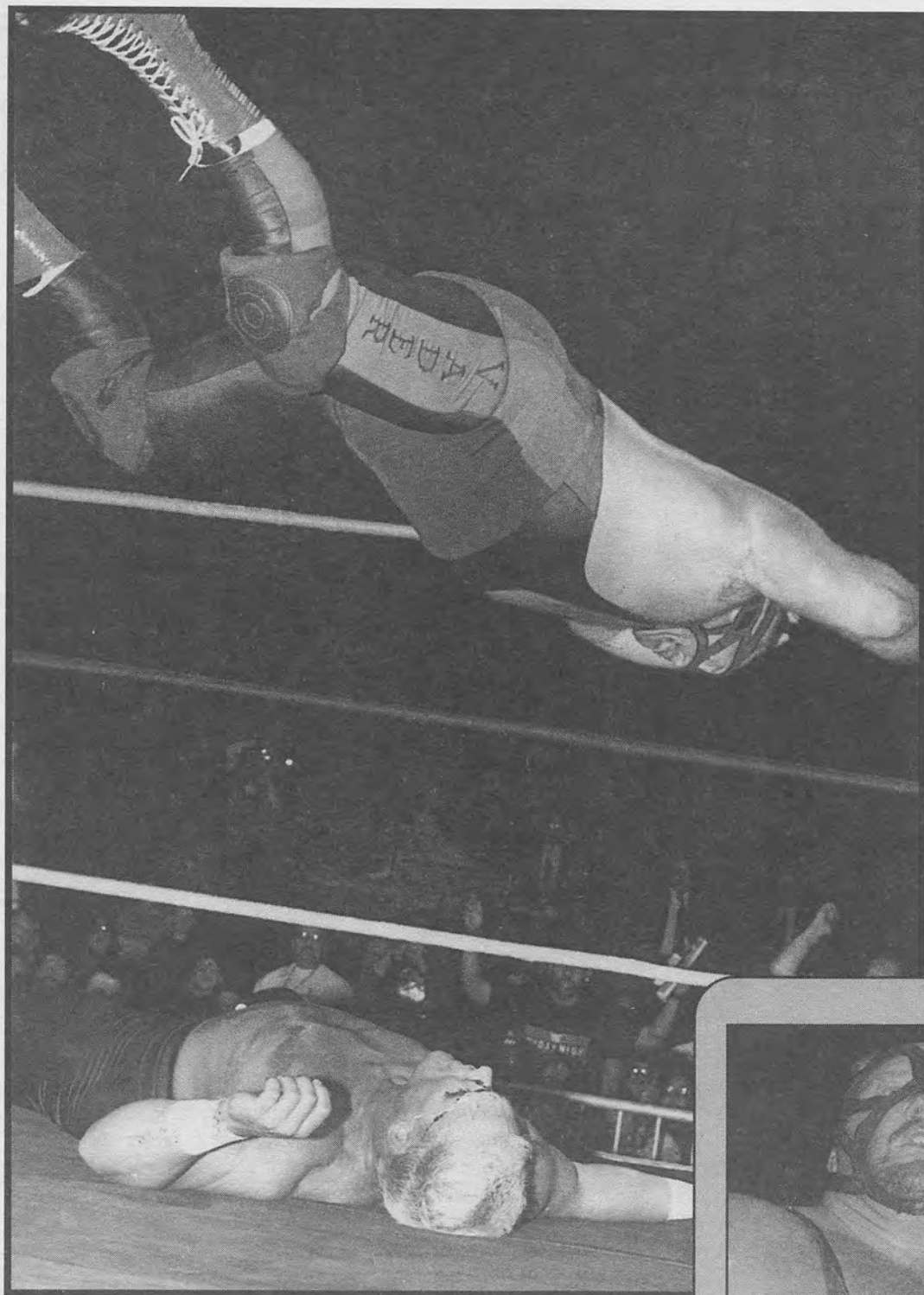
IT'S THAT TIME again. Time for us to put our collective editorial heads together. Time for us to come up with an idea on the cutting edge of wrestling.

Let's face it—a fantasy wrestling alliance certainly isn't a novel idea, even from this fine family of magazines. Every fan and writer who loves the sport has imagined his own wrestling alliance, complete with superstar competitors in the best arenas, hosted by the best announcers.

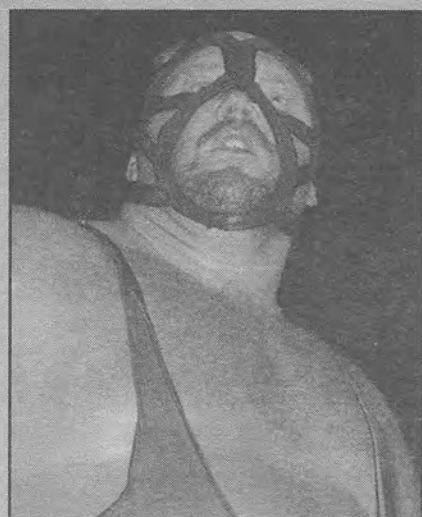
In this scenario, we pick the top wrestler in five categories—super heavyweight, light heavyweight, aerial grappler, technical grappler, and a wild card—factoring in several variables, such as age, marketability, and fan appeal or disfavor. You will probably be more surprised at the names that are not on the list rather than the ones who become



Bret Hart isn't considered a light heavyweight, but at 236 pounds he does fit that category. His unparalleled combination of skills, endurance, and energy makes the "Hitman" difficult to defeat.

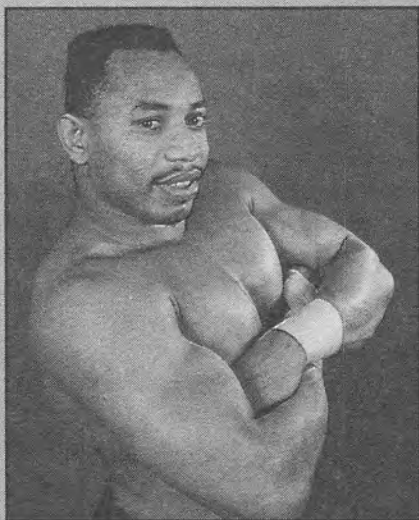


Big Vader has drastically stretched the horizons for super heavyweights. While his brutality is despised, his athleticism is admired. He has performed aerial feats unheard of for a wrestler his size.

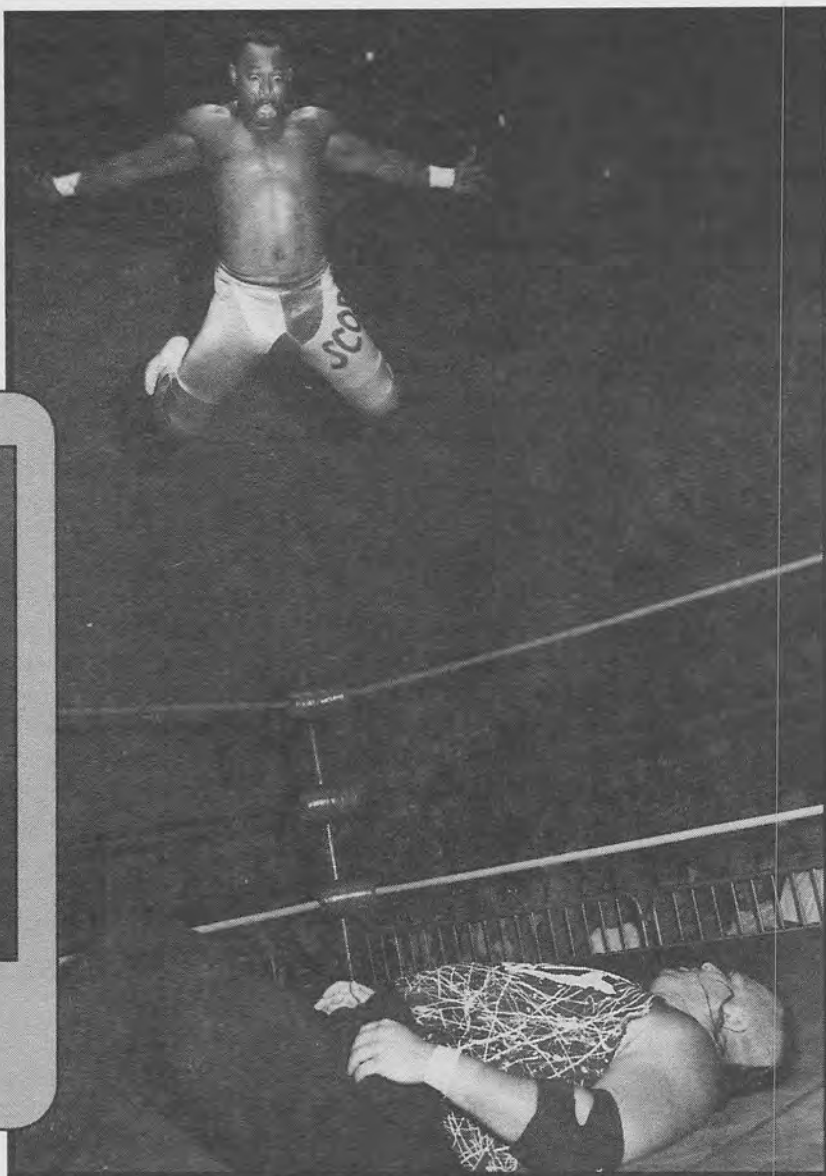


VADER

2 Cold Scorpio—now on the independent circuit—is the one aerial wrestler who uses his flying ability as much for strategy as show. Scorpio works at his craft, and has an incredible repertoire.



2 COLD SCORPIO



charter members of our FWA.

Super heavyweight: Big Van Vader. We used a minimum weight of 285 pounds in making this selection, thus excluding obvious heavyweights like Sting but including the likes of The Undertaker and Razor Ramon. Simply put, there is no one in the sport with Vader's size that has his ability. The oft-discussed dream match between Vader and former WWF champion Yokozuna would be a nightmare. Vader has added a moonsault to his terrifying repertoire, while Yokozuna has trouble running across the ring.

Vader is a three-time WCW titleholder whose domination stretches across the globe. He was a tag

team champion in Japan before coming to WCW, and competes on more international cards than any other wrestler in either major U.S. federation. Now in only his mid-30s (young by wrestling standards), he was once an All-America offensive lineman at the University of Colorado before a knee injury squelched a long football career. Vader has shattered the stereotype that wrestlers of his size are necessarily lumbering and unathletic.

He is not the most charismatic wrestler in the world, but does have the ability to ignore pain and actually takes glee in maiming an opponent. Whatever he lacks in charisma would be covered by manager

Harley Race, who knows a good meal ticket when he sees one and would certainly accompany Vader into our FWA. Also, the fans despise him, making Vader a true evil figure.

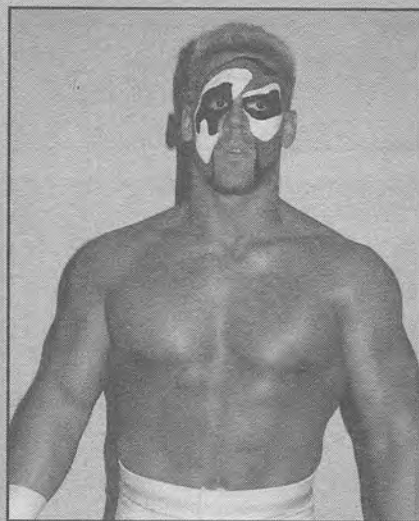
Why do so many of the taller wrestlers lack mobility? Undertaker, Ramon, and Hulk Hogan have worse lateral movement than most second-string NBA centers. We tried to find other categories for men like Sting and Ric Flair, whose excellence cannot be ignored but don't fit our idea of a super heavyweight. Some of the others who took a backseat to Vader in this category were Bam Bam Bigelow, Lex Luger, and Dustin Rhodes.

Light heavyweight: Bret Hart. When WCW had a lightweight division, the cutoff was 235 pounds.

Although Hart appears eight to 10 pounds heavier, that is what he is listed at, so the "Hitman" is our man. No one ever thinks of Hart in this category, because the WWF has doesn't have a light heavyweight division and Hart has always overcome bigger, stronger opponents.

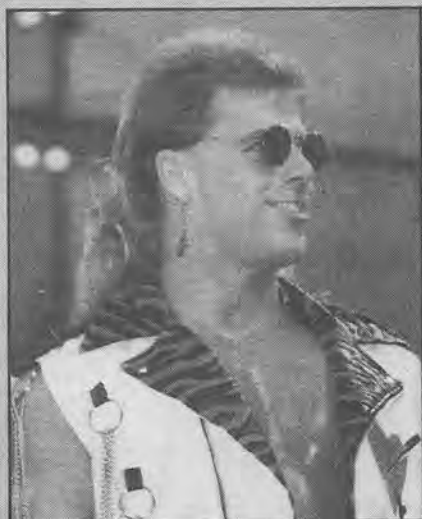
"Simply put," said WWF expert Thomas Pilliard, "he's the best. There is no one in the sport with a better combination of strength, skills, and energy."

Hart has remarkable endurance and an innate ability to overcome injury. His rapport and interaction with crowds is superb, and he is a genuine heart-throb in the eyes of female fans. This should not be overlooked, because a wrestler popular with women increases



STING

Sting makes his wrestling look easy thanks to his unparalleled technical skills. No matter the opponent or his style, the "Stinger" has enough in his arsenal to counteract him.



MICHAELS

the fan base.

Most of the other light heavyweights, like Brian Pillman or The Kid, are just that—light heavyweights. They would be crushed by wrestlers like Yokozuna or Bigelow. Not Hart.

Aerial wrestler: 2 Cold Scorpio. Most of the light heavyweights under consideration fell into this category, because most light heavyweights are aerial wrestlers. By selecting Hart as our light heavyweight, men like Pillman and Kid remain eligible for selection in this category. But all of them place second to Scorpio, who has seemingly come out of nowhere to become the most exciting aerial grappler around. What other wrestler has plancha dives, moonsaults, and “Frankensteiners” in his repertoire?

While we’ve been writing about the exploits of Kid, Pillman, and Jushin Liger for years, Scorpio is relative new face. It is obvious he respects the sport and what he believes is wrestling. Unlike the preening, posing wrestler, his showmanship comes in his skills. With the right backing and exposure, he could become the Michael Jordan of wrestling. Unfortunately, he has left WCW, so his brilliance for now will be limited to the independent circuit.

Technical wrestler: Sting. Who has more overall technical skills? Ric Flair resorts to chops. Rick Steamboat doesn’t have the strength. Rick Rude

for pound, Sting is the best technical wrestler on the planet.

Sting has enough strength to bodypress 400-pound Big Van Vader and enough agility to surprise Vader with a rolling savate kick in the same match. His holds are textbook and his armlocks and leglocks are top-notch. He has tremendous fan appeal, television exposure, and is loyal to his craft. He is a three-time former WCW World champion who also excels in specialty matches.

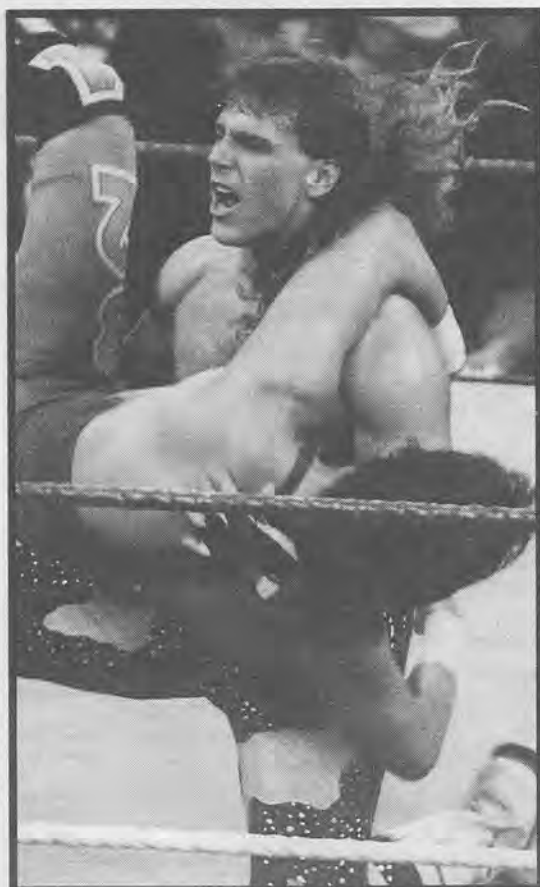
Sting hasn’t held the title in more than a year, and that works against him in this survey. Could he be on the downswing of a fabulous career? “No way,” offered WCW expert Donald Wayne. “The only thing holding Sting back may be boredom. What else does he need to prove to himself or the fans?”

Well, a title victory over Flair or Hogan would be nice, but we anticipate that in the near future.

Wild card: Shawn Michaels. He’s not the best heavyweight, the best light heavyweight, the best aerial or technical wrestler. But no one graded higher in all four categories than Michaels. The “Heartbreak Kid” also oozes charm and charisma, even though he is one of the most hated rulebreakers in the sport.

Perhaps Michaels’ strongest asset, which earns him the nod as our wild card, is that he understands that good wrestling is athletic entertainment. You never feel like you’ve been shortchanged after watching Michaels wrestle. He is a priceless performer, the likes of whom we will not see again for a long time. This is one former tag team champion who knew how good he could be on his own.

With these five superstars as the foundation of the FWA, it wouldn’t be long before the rest of the sport’s greats began jumping to our federation. Yes, this premise has been explored before, so we will give the foundation of the FWA a nickname that has been used before—The Fab Five. □

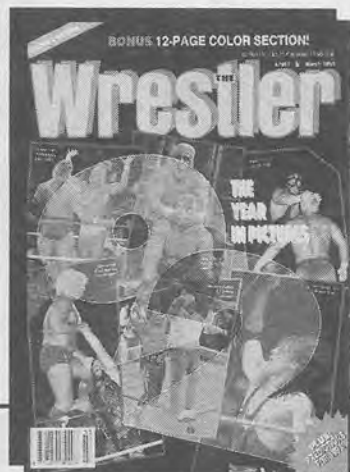


While Michaels isn’t the top-ranked in any specialty, his all-around ability makes him a key member of this fantasy roster. His charisma and entertaining style transcend his rulebreaking status.

too often resorts to brawling. Shawn Michaels has too much burlesque in him. And Hart doesn’t have the aerial acumen. No matter how you break it down, inch for inch, pound

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Last month in *The Wrestler*, we presented our mid-year report for the WWF. Now it's WCW's turn in the spotlight and **INSIDE WRESTLING**'s chance to shine

THE FIRST SIX months of 1994 were a record-breaking, newsmaking period in WCW. Hulk Hogan finally arrived in the federation after months of speculation. Ric Flair defended his WCW World title. Rick Rude departed and The Boss arrived, eventually becoming a Guardian Angel. Larry Zbyszko (of all people) made a comeback, and also made Lord Steven Regal look stupid. Big Van Vader slipped a bit on the ladder of contenders, but still was plenty dangerous. Just ask Cactus Jack, whose ear was severed by the former champ.

On the following pages, we've compiled an offbeat look at WCW's first six months of 1994. There's news and reviews, darts and laurels, fun and games, and a review of the ordinary, extraordinary, and unusual happenings. We saw the World tag team and TV titles change hands. Bobby "The Brain" Heenan entertained us with his wit and wisdom. And now it's our turn to entertain you!

It was a great first half, and the second six months promise to be even better. So, before we forge ahead with the rest of 1994, here's an informative look at the initial six months. It was a half-year to remember.

MIDYE

ACTION

TALENT ROSTER

COMPETITIVENESS

BUSINESS

PUBLIC IMAGE

AR REPORT

B	PAY-PER-VIEWS	B-
B+	ARENA SHOWS	C-
A-	TV PRODUCTION	B-
C	ANNOUNCERS	A+
B	FAN RELATIONS	B-



Ric Flair stuns Barry Windham

THE GRADES ARE IN ...

They get an "A": **Ric Flair** won the World title from Big Van Vader, then successfully defended it against Vader, Sting, Rick Steamboat, and Barry Windham. Hulk's next ... **Larry Zbyszko**, ring rust and all, came out of retirement and beat Lord Steven Regal for the TV title ... **Steve Austin** took a lot of criticism, but continued defending the U.S. title.

They get a "B": **Sting** showed great sportsmanship by refusing to accept the vacant International heavy-weight title, then proved his championship mettle by defeating Vader. He also won the European Cup championship ... **Big Van Vader**, despite losses to Flair and Sting in his biggest matches of the six months, dominated his competition and continues as a federation force ... **The Nasty Boys** defended their World tag team titles night after night before running into bad luck, namely Dave Schultz' hockey stick ... **Cactus Jack** and **Kevin Sullivan** shocked the world by beating The Nasty Boys for the tag belts ... **Dustin Rhodes** won his big matches against Bunkhouse Buck, but is in danger of turning this into a lost year unless he starts wrestling more serious opponents.

They get a "C": **Lord Steven Regal** couldn't back up his bravado and lost the TV title to Zbyszko. Need we say more? ... **Johnny B. Badd**'s act is entertaining, but where's the beef? ... **The Guardian Angel**, formerly known as The Boss, hasn't shown he can fly ... **Brian Pillman** has us asking, "Is there a WCW treadmill?" ... **Paul Roma** made a bad move by leaving The Four Horsemen. So what does that say about his partner, **Paul**

Orndorff, who'd be better off out on his own ... Better **Terry Taylor** than Rooster, although he hasn't done much to inspire.

They get a "D": **Bunkhouse Buck** isn't even the Bunkhouse Stampede champion. So what is he?

They get an "F": **Barry Windham** looked rusty and out of shape when he lost to Flair at Slamboree '94. It was an ill-advised decision to make a comeback against a wrestler of Flair's caliber ... **Erik Watts** was a much better wrestler when his father was in charge of WCW.

They get an "incomplete": **Hulk Hogan** rang out the half-year with a bang, thanks to a dynamic press conference announcing his arrival ... **Rick Rude**, definitely among WCW's elite wrestlers, left the federation amidst controversy. We beg for his return ...

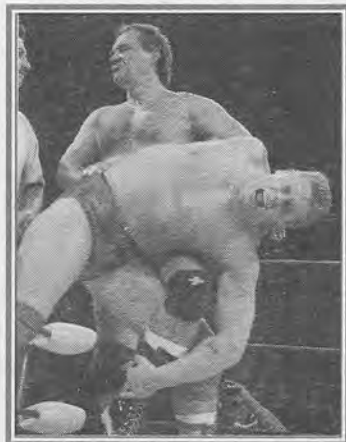


Erik Watts elbowdrops Tex Slazenger

A LIST OF THE BEST COMEBACKS SO FAR IN '94

1. Larry Zbyszko
2. Terry Funk
3. Dave Schultz

Larry Zbyszko controls Lord Steven Regal



IF THE SUIT FITS, WEAR IT

When "Stunning" Steve Austin and Col. Robert Parker were confronted by Brian Pillman and Dustin Rhodes, they noticed their rivals were carrying the head of a chicken suit. Their reaction to this obvious insult? Austin and Parker turned chicken and ran away.

IT'S CALLED THE TV TITLE BECAUSE HE STOOD AROUND AND LOOKED AT IT ALL THE TIME

Lord Steven Regal loved being WCW TV champion, but hated defending the belt on TV. One night, he wrestled Sting at Atlanta's Center Stage Theater—wrestling's TV studio—in a non-title match. Perhaps the match was a rerun and Regal already knew the ending. He was pinned by Sting in the center of the ring, but got to keep his belt.



Ric Flair vs. Big Van Vader, Thundercage

LIKE A WEDDING, FIRST IT'S OFF ...

The Thundercage rematch between Flair and Big Van Vader scheduled for SuperBrawl IV was postponed because of Flair's injuries.

THEN IT'S ON AGAIN ...

But the match was held after all when Flair, against doctor's orders, decided he was fit to defend the title. Of course, it didn't hurt that Vader and manager Harley Race belittled Flair when the original announcement was made. Flair had the last laugh, winning by submission to retain the belt.

AND LIKE A WEDDING, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THE GUY OFFICIATING IS GOING TO DO

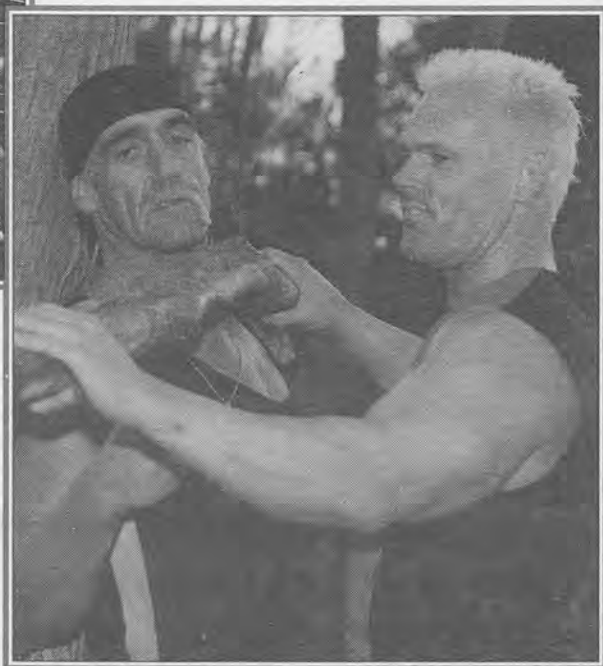
Special guest referee The Boss was hardly neutral in the Vader-Flair match. There was considerable controversy over whether Vader actually submitted to Flair's figure-four leglock. "Did you hear me submit?" Vader screamed. "I want an investigation. I want The Boss!"

BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT YOU WISH FOR, YOU MIGHT GET IT

Vader wanted The Boss after SuperBrawl and got him. But he didn't get Flair at another pay-per-view, and that's who he really should have been after.

STING DIDN'T SMILE WHEN SOMEBODY TOLD HIM IT WAS THE BEST ACTING PERFORMANCE SINCE KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR'S IN AIRPLANE!

The wrestling world wondered if Sting had caught the acting bug after he appeared in several episodes of *Thunder In Paradise*, Hulk Hogan's syndicated action-adventure TV series. Sting reassured the world that he has wrestling, and only wrestling, on his mind. Usually.



Hulk Hogan and Sting on *Thunder In Paradise*

WHO THE HECK IS THE MARQUESS DE QUEENSBURY AND WHY DID HE LIKE THESE SHORT MATCHES?

Ric Flair and Lord Steven Regal battled in a series of Marquess de Queensbury matches. These five-minute matches, ruled on by a panel of three judges, were anything but a hit with WCW's tradition-minded fans.

FOR SOME REASON, WE JUST DON'T TRUST THIS GUY

Where Bobby Heenan walks, rumors follow. Among the hot ones: He's managing Rick Rude, conspiring with Nick Bockwinkel, and helping out Ric Flair. One rumor doesn't seem false: We guarantee he'll try to stop Hogan.

FRIENDS, ROMANS, COUNTRYMEN—LEND CACTUS YOUR EAR. HE NEEDS IT!

Cactus Jack's manic feud with Big Van Vader took a truly ugly turn this March in Munich, Germany, when part of Jack's ear was ripped off during a bout with Vader. He was immediately sent home to recuperate. The injury was essentially cosmetic and didn't affect Jack's hearing, although his sense of balance suffered for some time. While other wrestlers might have been aghast over such an incident, Cactus seemed to relish the situation. It only boosted his legend as one of wrestling's premier masochists.



Cactus Jack, sans ear

FUNNY, BUT WE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT OF IT AS A JUNGLE

"Jungle" Jim Steele bills himself from The Everglades, which we always thought was more swamp than jungle. But according to Webster's, a jungle is "wild land overgrown with dense vegetation, especially in the tropics." It's also "a place of violence, struggle, or ruthless competition." Maybe he should bill himself as from Miami.

THEY'D LOOK GREAT IN WCW

Bret Hart
Owen Hart
Jeff Jarrett
The Kid
Irwin R. Schyster
Randy Savage
Jake Roberts
Alundra Blayze
Luna Vachon

THEY'D LOOK GREAT IN THE WWF

Hulk Hogan
Big Van Vader
Dustin Rhodes
Johnny B. Badd
Sherri Martel

LET'S SEE HOW IT WOULD TURN OUT NOW

The February 1994 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* included this analysis of the WWF and WCW. Which was better? Our verdict: The WWF, by a slight margin. We decided it had better top 10 contenders, tag teams, roster depth, TV production, and a brighter future, while the WCW scores in champions and supercards. These days, we'd have to give the edge to WCW in top 10 contenders, and, after the McMahon trial in July, perhaps a brighter future.

GUESS HE DOESN'T PLAN ON GOING BACK

Interviewed shortly after his arrival in WCW, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan had this to say about his former employers: "Everyone knows that the WWF is a fan favorite federation, and it starts at the top with Vince McMahon and Jack Tunney. If you're in the corner of the rulebreakers—as I often was—you don't have the ear of the decision-makers. [Gorilla] Monsoon has always been McMahon's lackey. I think he was afraid to challenge him. That's what made me a better announcer than him."



Ric Flair meets with Hulk Hogan

THE SHOT SEEN 'ROUND THE WORLD

A photo of Hogan and Flair shaking hands at Flair's gym opened eyes in the wrestling world (and also made for a best-selling issue of *PWT*). We reported that Hogan and Flair spoke in a civilized manner and a Flair-Sting-Hogan alliance was possible. Of course, Hogan and Flair no longer speak to each other in a civilized manner and a Flair-Sting-Hogan alliance looks highly unlikely.

SORRY, MS. MARTEL, BUT "SENSATIONAL" AND "SCARY" WERE FAR MORE DESCRIPTIVE THAN "SENSUOUS"

Sherri Martel, formerly the WWF's bad girl, showed up in WCW with a new moniker and a new attitude. But when she went out hunting for a man, she found that the boys weren't too interested in standing side-by-side with Bad Luck Sherri. You know, we were just wondering. If Sherri ever came out with a make-up line ...



Sherri Martel

WHERE'S THE TOM GLAVINE-GREG MADDUX TAG TEAM?

Ted Turner, who owns WCW and the Atlanta Braves but pays considerably more attention to the Braves, appeared at ringside on February 1 with his wife, Jane Fonda. It was a rare appearance. Jane didn't fall asleep, as she's been known to do at baseball games, and Ted didn't fire anyone or try to manage.

EW TON DID WONK EH DAH A REHTORB

The Equalizer turned out to be Dave—or Evad—Sullivan, Kevin Sullivan's dyslexic brother.

NOW HE LOOKS THE SAME ON THE INSIDE AS ON THE OUTSIDE

Cactus Jack suffered internal injuries at SuperBrawl IV when he was knocked out of the ring and landed on his back on the concrete floor.

WHY ISN'T THIS MAN WRESTLING FOR THE WCW WORLD TITLE?

We asked that question after Vader pinned Rick Steamboat, Sting, Paul Roma, Cactus Jack, and Steamboat again on successive nights during WCW's European tour. Vader is still the most intimidating wrestler in WCW. And maybe the best.



Big Van Vader

WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, MISSY HYATT?

WCW's blonde bombshell disappeared from the scene shortly after appearing on Vicki Lawrence's TV show wearing a little red dress showing off every inch of her curves. Missy left to pursue an acting career in New York and filed a sexual harassment suit against WCW in her wake.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON THE DAY OF WRESTLEMANIA X?

We don't know about you, but Sting was in Hamburg, Germany, beating Big Van Vader for the first European Cup Championship.

THE WWF WOULD HAVE NEVER LET THEM DESTROY THEIR PRECIOUS SOUVENIR STANDS

A falls-count-anywhere match pitting The Nasty Boys against Cactus Jack and Maxx Payne was fought anywhere and everywhere, except the ring. The Nastys attacked Jack and Payne with a lead pipe and a pool cue before they reached the ring. The battle continued near a souvenir stand, which was quickly torn apart. WCW officials did not reveal the value of the destroyed merchandise.



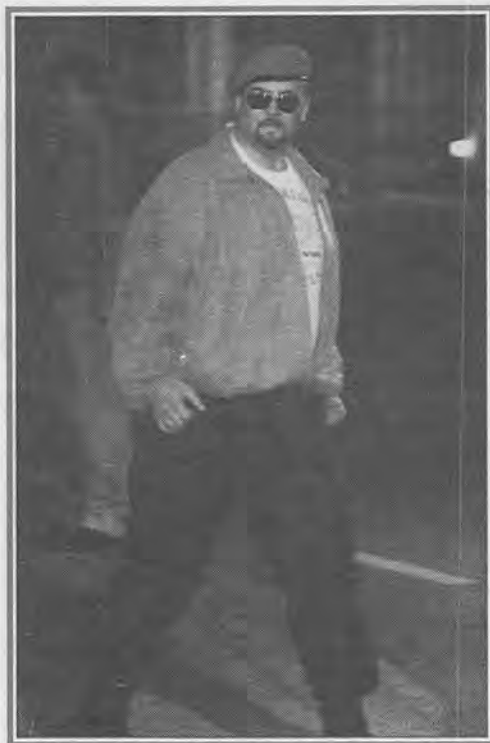
Cactus Jack & Maxx Payne vs. The Nasty Boys vs. souvenir stand

A BUNCH OF GOOD EGGS

When WCW officials heard that the major sponsor of the Atlanta Fire Department's annual Easter egg hunt had pulled out, they took over as sponsor and contributed several wrestlers to the cause.

THE MOST TASTELESS REMARK OF 1994

Interviewed at a WCW TV taping, Kevin Sullivan asked, "What do John Kruk, Cactus Jack, and The Nasty Boys have in common? They're all going to be missing body parts in Philadelphia!" Kruk, the Phillies first baseman, had recently returned to action after undergoing treatment for testicular cancer. Some things are not to be made fun of.



The Guardian Angel

PICTURE CURTIS SLIWA, PRO WRESTLER

The Boss obviously agreed with Bockwinkel's decree and began billing himself as The Guardian Angel. That means he's defending the law, but without the law's blessing.

JUST LIKE IN BASEBALL, A TIE GOES TO WHOEVER THE REFEREE FEELS LIKE GIVING IT TO

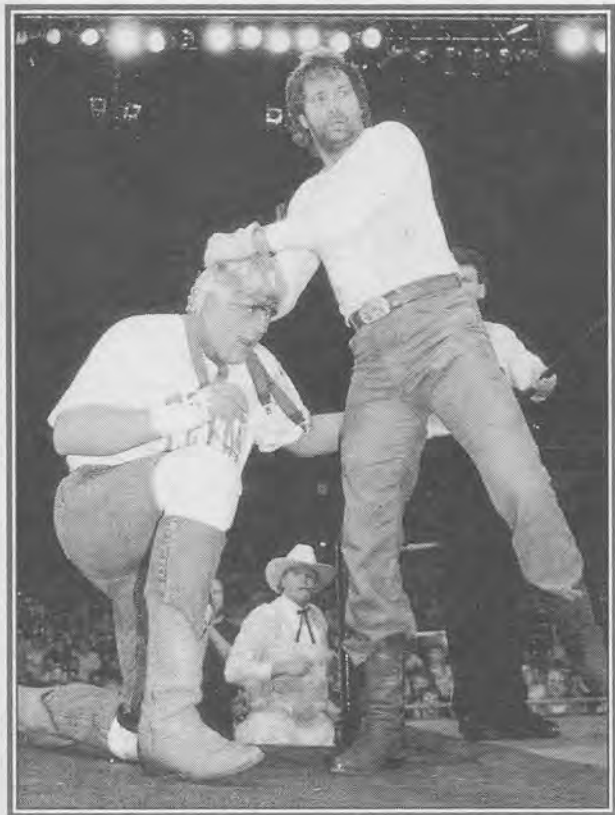
Rick Steamboat thought he had won the World title from Ric Flair when he seemingly pinned Flair at Spring Stampede on April 17 in Chicago. But alternate referee Randy Anderson informed referee Nick Patrick that both men's shoulders were down when the count was made. Bockwinkel had the last say and he ruled the match a draw, which meant Flair got to keep the belt. Steamboat was outraged. "Flair did not beat me, so why should he have his hand raised?" he asked. "At best, he tied me. Bockwinkel should have ordered the match continued."

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GUESS: IT'S A 300-POUND BLOND FORMER WORLD CHAMPION. WELL, THAT PRETTY MUCH RULES OUT RICK STEAMBOAT AND YOKOZUNA

Barry Windham, tipping the scales at well over 300 pounds, returned to WCW as Flair's mystery opponent at Slamboree '94. Windham showed plenty of ring rust and lost decisively.

THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO WOULD CARE IF HE CALLED HIMSELF "THE BUNKHOUSE STAMPEDE CHAMPION." AND BUNKHOUSE BUCK FOUND HIM

The Bunkhouse Stampede is a long-forgotten part of NWA/WCW history. Forgotten, that is, unless you're Bunkhouse Buck, who invaded WCW intending to prove to everyone that he's the real Bunkhouse champion. Dusty Rhodes, the real Bunkhouse champion, took exception, and Dustin Rhodes defended his father's honor. They're still battling, but let's face it: This isn't exactly the World Cup.



Bunkhouse Buck vs. Dustin Rhodes

TWO GOOD DECISIONS. THAT WOULD BE A GOOD YEAR FOR JACK TUNNEY

WCW Commissioner Nick Bockwinkel distinguished himself at Spring Stampede by making the correct ruling on the Steamboat-Flair match and also intervening in The Boss' brutal attack on Harley Race. Bockwinkel escorted The Boss to the dressing room and told him, "You are no longer the boss."

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED: THREE REASONS WCW IS GLAD IT'S NOT THE WWF

1. Vince McMahon goes to court
2. Hulk Hogan comes to WCW
3. Doink and Dink

HOW TIMES HAVEN'T CHANGED: THREE REASONS THE WWF IS GLAD IT'S NOT WCW

1. WWF Monday Night Raw
2. Hulk Hogan comes to WCW
3. Bret Hart



The "Broad Street Bully Brawl" at Slamboree '94

THE BELTS? OH YEAH, RIGHT, THE BELTS"

Cactus Jack and Kevin Sullivan beat The Nasty Boys in a brutally violent "Broad Street Bully Brawl" at Slamboree '94. Jack and Sullivan seemed more intent on killing Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags and were a little surprised when guest referee and former Flyers enforcer Dave Schultz handed them the World tag team belts.

"YOUR REQUEST FOR A REMATCH HAS BEEN DENIED. WE'RE GIVING IT TO NOBODY"

WCW officials said no to Steamboat's request for a rematch against Flair, then made one of the strangest moves in title history by awarding the contract for the Slamboree '94 World championship bout to Col. Robert Parker. He then announced a "mystery opponent" would wrestle Flair and refused to divulge the wrestler's identity."

EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE

To their credit, WCW officials tried to make a major event out of Hulk Hogan's arrival in the federation. But the fans at a mock ticker-tape parade at Disney MGM Studios in Orlando, Florida, seemed more interested in posing for the camera and getting free T-shirts. The crowd's reaction to Hogan proves that WCW is still Ric Flair territory and the "Hulkster" will have a hard time generating any "Hulkamania" in his new home. Sorry, Hulk, but this just isn't the WWF.

A LIST OF THE THREE BEST PAY-PER-VIEW CARDS SO FAR IN 1994

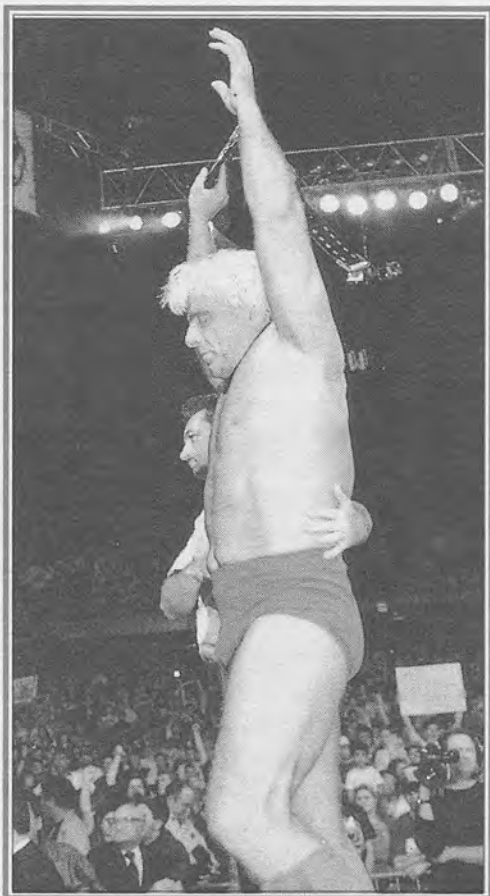
1. Spring Stampede
2. SuperBrawl IV
3. Slamboree '94

TAG TEAM OF THE HALF-YEAR

The Nasty Boys. Sure, they didn't come out of the half-year with the World tag team belts, but they gave their all in defenses against the top contenders. It took Dave Schultz' hockey stick to finally wrest the title from them.

WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

Ric Flair. The "Nature Boy" defended the WCW World title against all comers and never turned down a challenge (with the possible exception of a return pay-per-view bout with Rick Steamboat). But Flair's greatest test will come during the second half of 1994 when he takes on Hulk Hogan.



Ric Flair

MANAGER OF THE HALF-YEAR

Col. Robert Parker. He's not exactly piling up the wins, but Steve Austin is still the U.S. champ and he somehow managed to get Barry Windham a title shot at Slamboree '94. Question the means but never question the results.



Col. Robert Parker

MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

Lord Steven Regal. Nobody's more obnoxious than Lord Steven. He was so mouthy that Larry Zbyszko came out of retirement to beat him.

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

Sting. There's no stopping the "Stinger," who continues to wrestle by the rules and endear the fans with his wonderful personality. Sting's popularity is another reason Hogan will have such a hard time making it in WCW. They're complete opposites.

SO, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, FIVE PREDICTIONS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1994

1. Hogan and Flair will wrestle. The fans will root for Flair. Flair will win.
2. Hogan will be out of WCW by January 1, 1995.
3. Rick Rude will return and wrestle Flair for the World title.
4. The Nasty Boys will regain the World tag team title.
5. Sherri Martel will kiss Cactus Jack on national TV.

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE HALF-YEAR

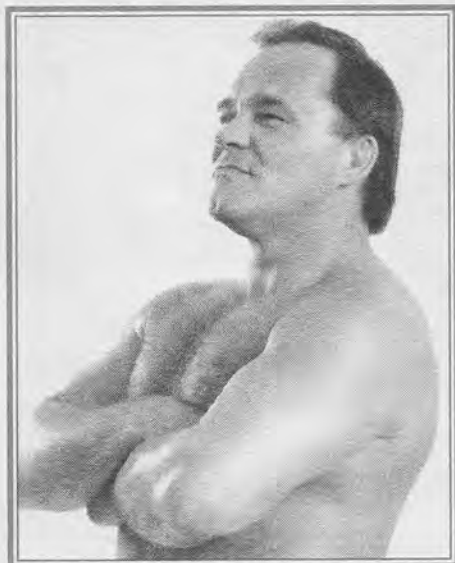
Larry Zbyszko. Age was no barrier as Zbyszko came out of retirement to beat Lord Steven Regal for the WCW TV title. Not bad for an old man who might have been more at home in the old-timers' match at Slamboree.

ROOKIE OF THE HALF-YEAR

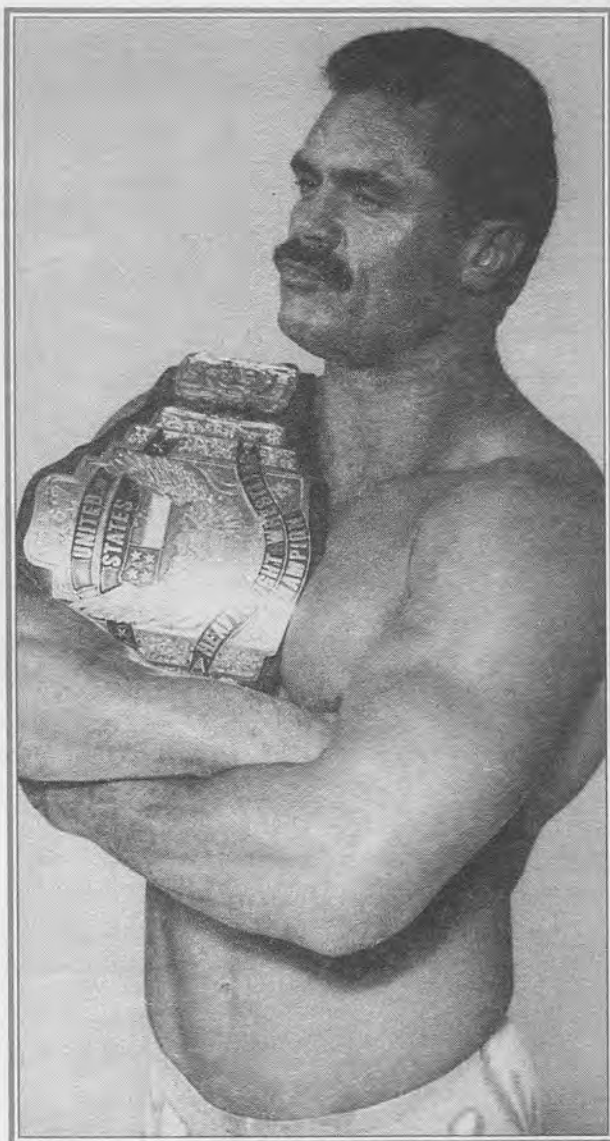
Frank Andersson. Though the Swede is untested against top-level opposition, the three time former Greco-Roman World champion and 1984 Olympic bronze medalist appears to have adapted superbly to the pro style. He's powerful, his moves are crisp, and it doesn't hurt that he's good-looking as well.

MATCH OF THE HALF-YEAR

The Nasty Boys battled Cactus Jack and Maxx Payne in a brutal falls-count-anywhere match at Spring Stampede. All four sustained incredible punishment during this all-out war.



Larry
Zbyszko



Rick Rude

HOW OUR SECOND-HALF PREDICTIONS FOR 1993 FARED

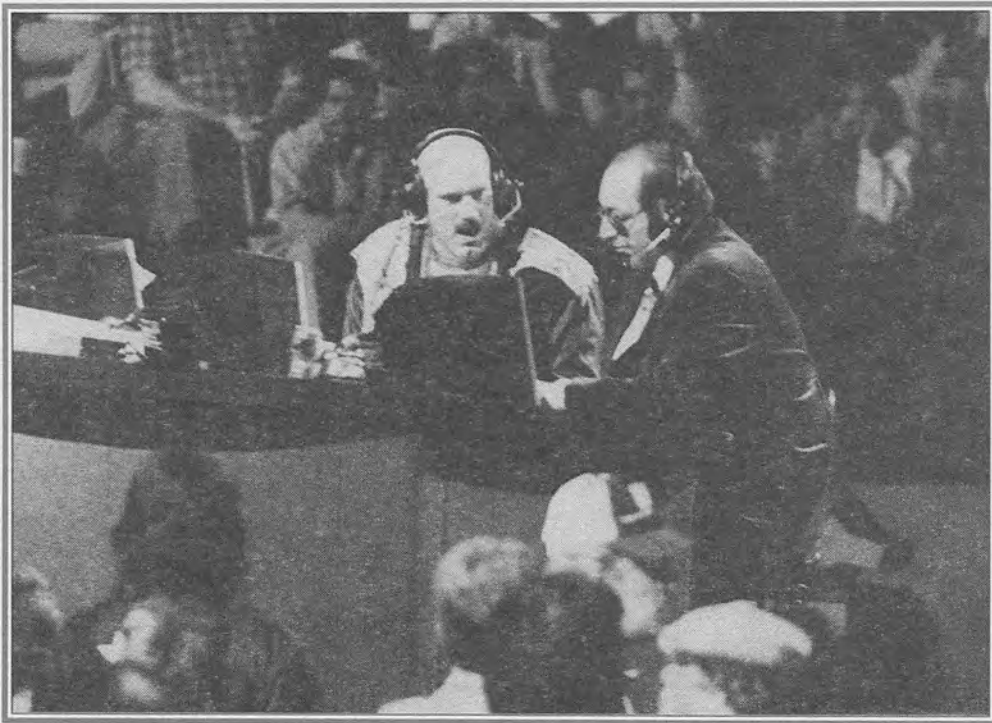
1. Sid Vicious and Big Van Vader will feud. We were right, but just as Vicious was on the verge of a title match against Vader, he got into a celebrated hotel room brawl with Arn Anderson in England.

2. The Four Horsemen will become rulebreakers again. Wrong, although Paul Roma, a member of the Horsemen, left the group and became a rulebreaker.

3. Vicious will win the WCW World title. Desperately wrong.

4. Rick Rude will regain the U.S. title—for real. He didn't, although he won the International heavy-weight title, which we do not recognize as authentic.

5. Cactus Jack will kiss Missy Hyatt on national TV. He didn't. Unfortunately, we didn't, either.



Jesse Ventura and Gorilla Monsoon

AND WE CAN JUST HOPE THAT ...

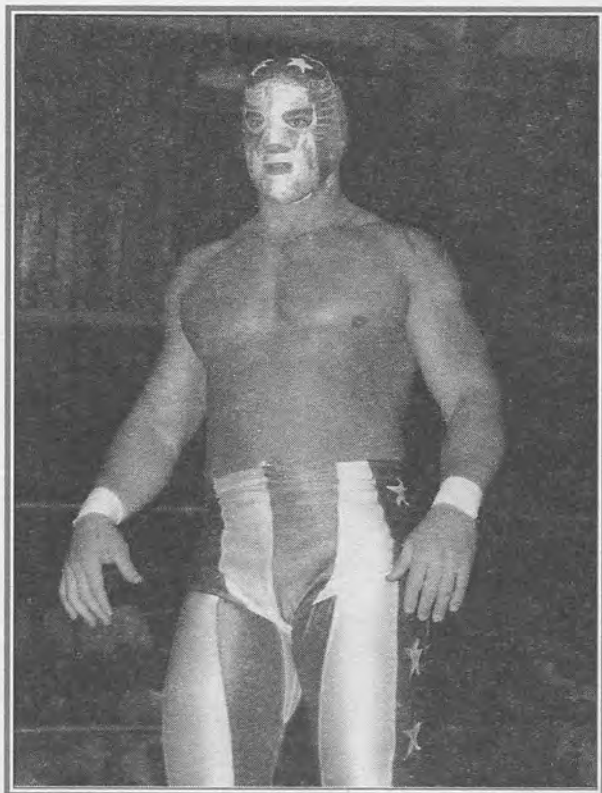
1. Flair doesn't turn rulebreaker.
2. Kevin Sullivan doesn't turn against Cactus Jack.
3. Missy Hyatt doesn't return and go head-to-head with Sherri.
4. Gorilla Monsoon doesn't come to WCW.
5. There isn't another "Spin The Wheel, Make The Deal" match at Halloween Havoc.

YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE HEARING A LOT FROM ...

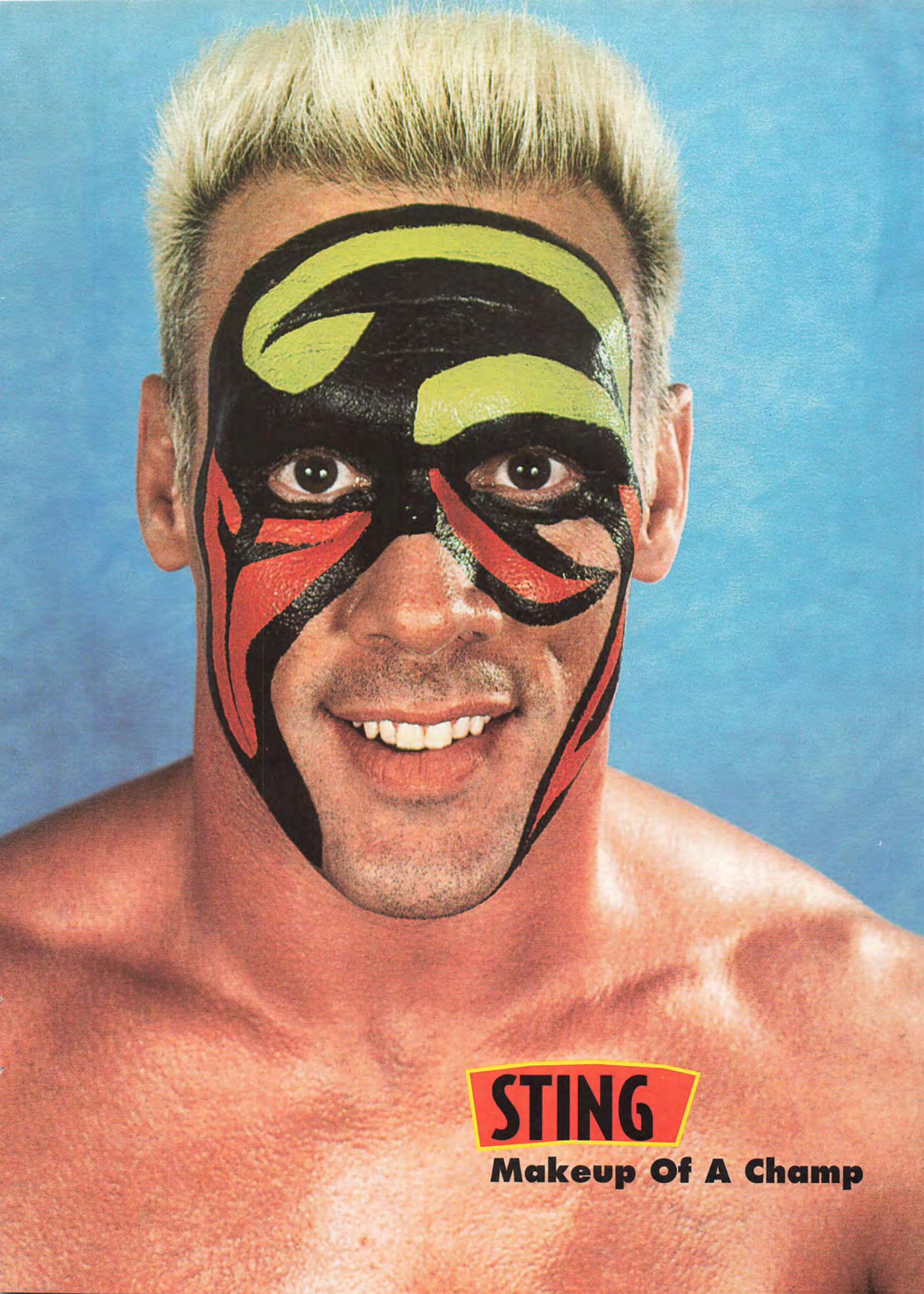
Rip Rogers
Mike Thor
Bill Pain
Kane
Kole
Mike McReynolds
Kenny Kendall
Erik Watts
Barry Houston
Coconut Savage

BUT KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR ...

"Jungle" Jim Steele
The Patriot
Frank Andersson

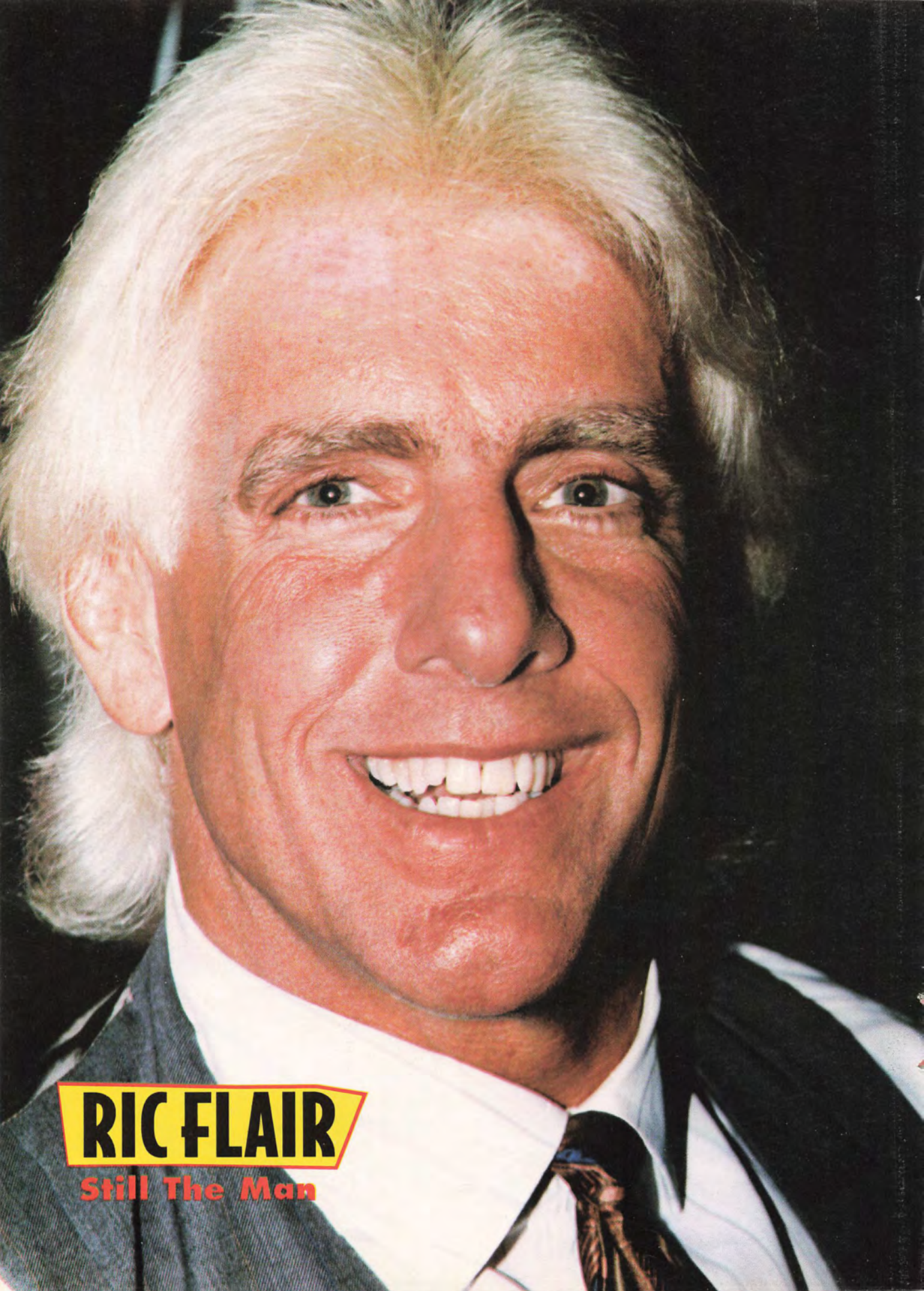


The Patriot



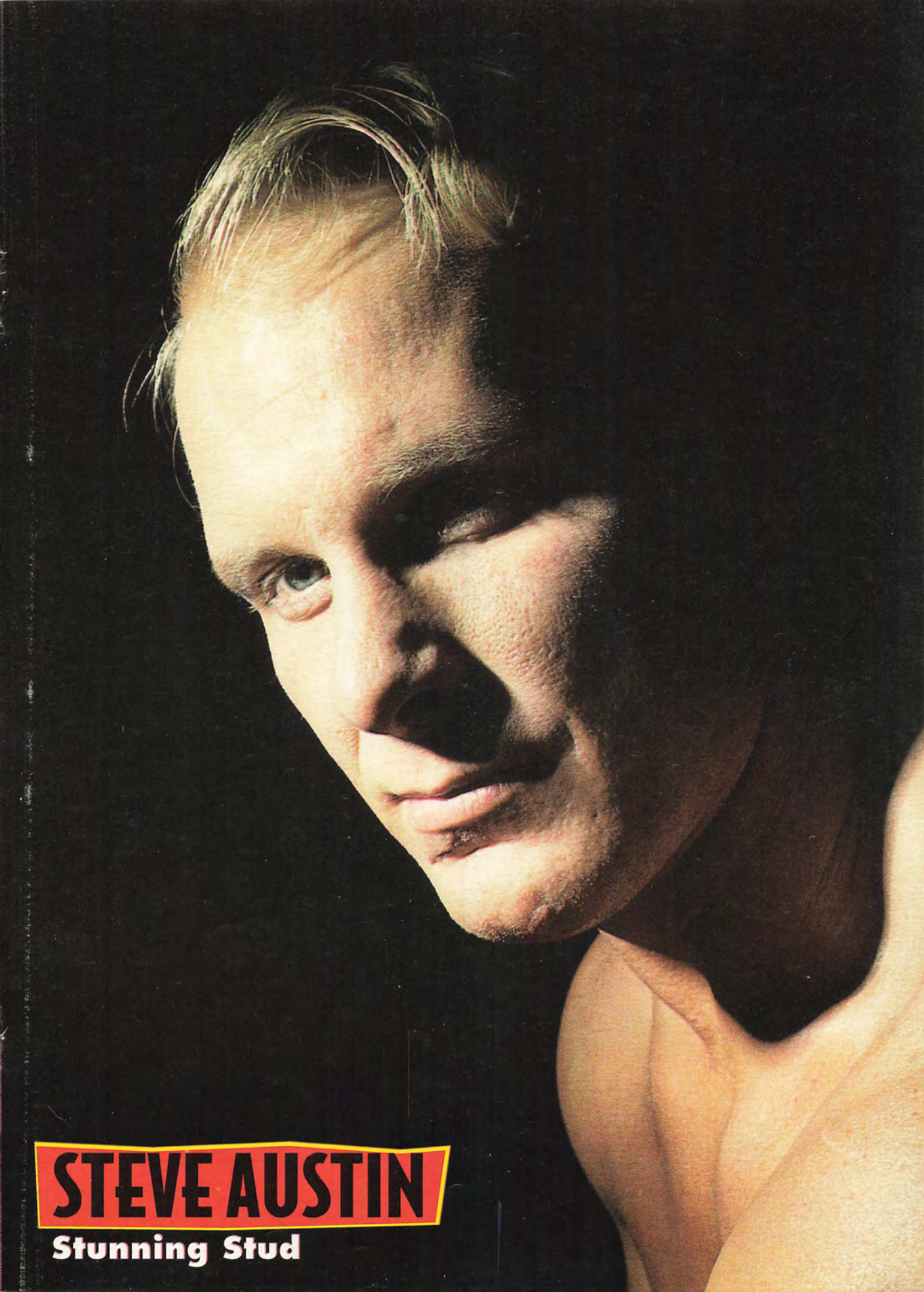
STING

Makeup Of A Champ



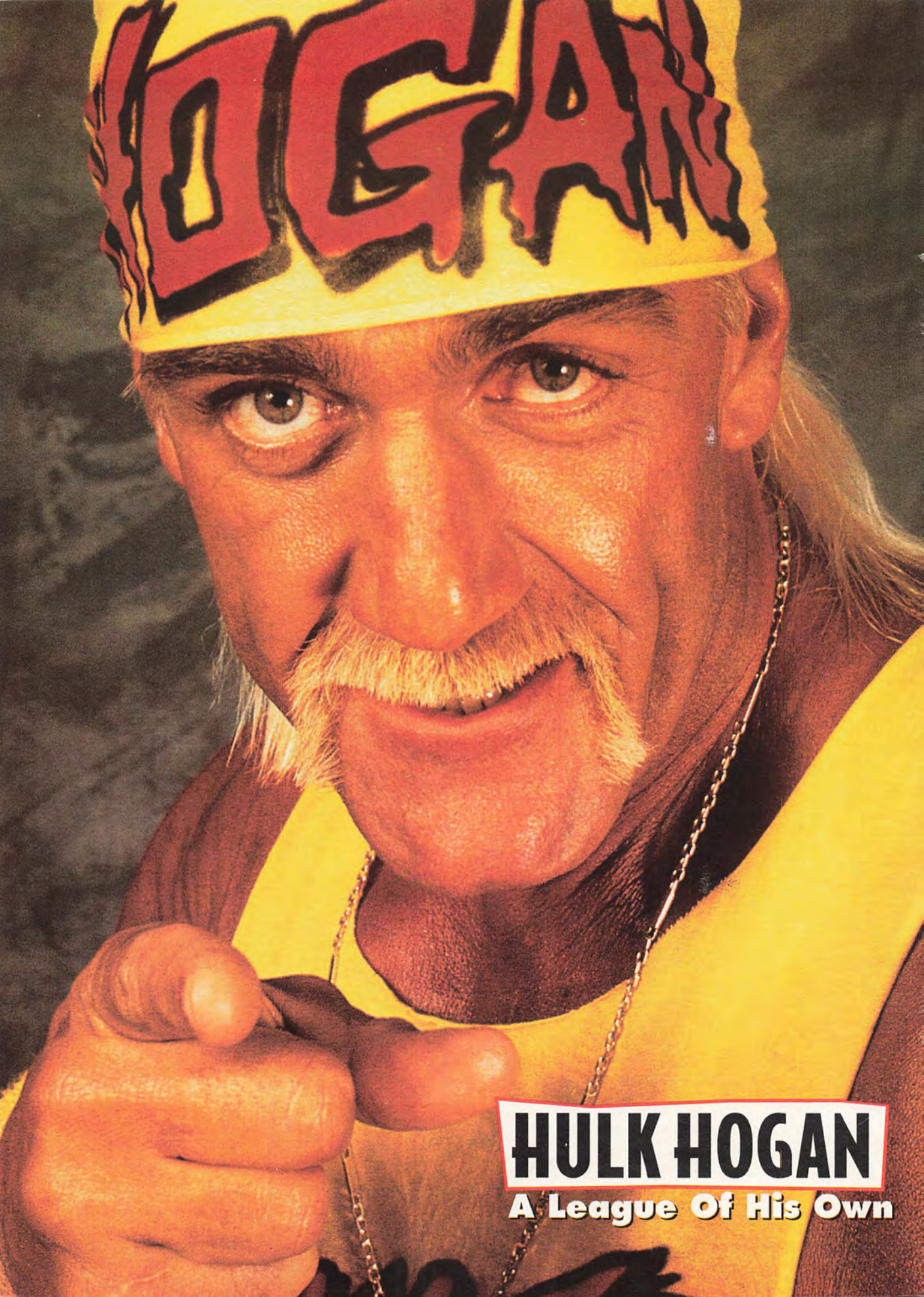
RIC FLAIR

Still The Man



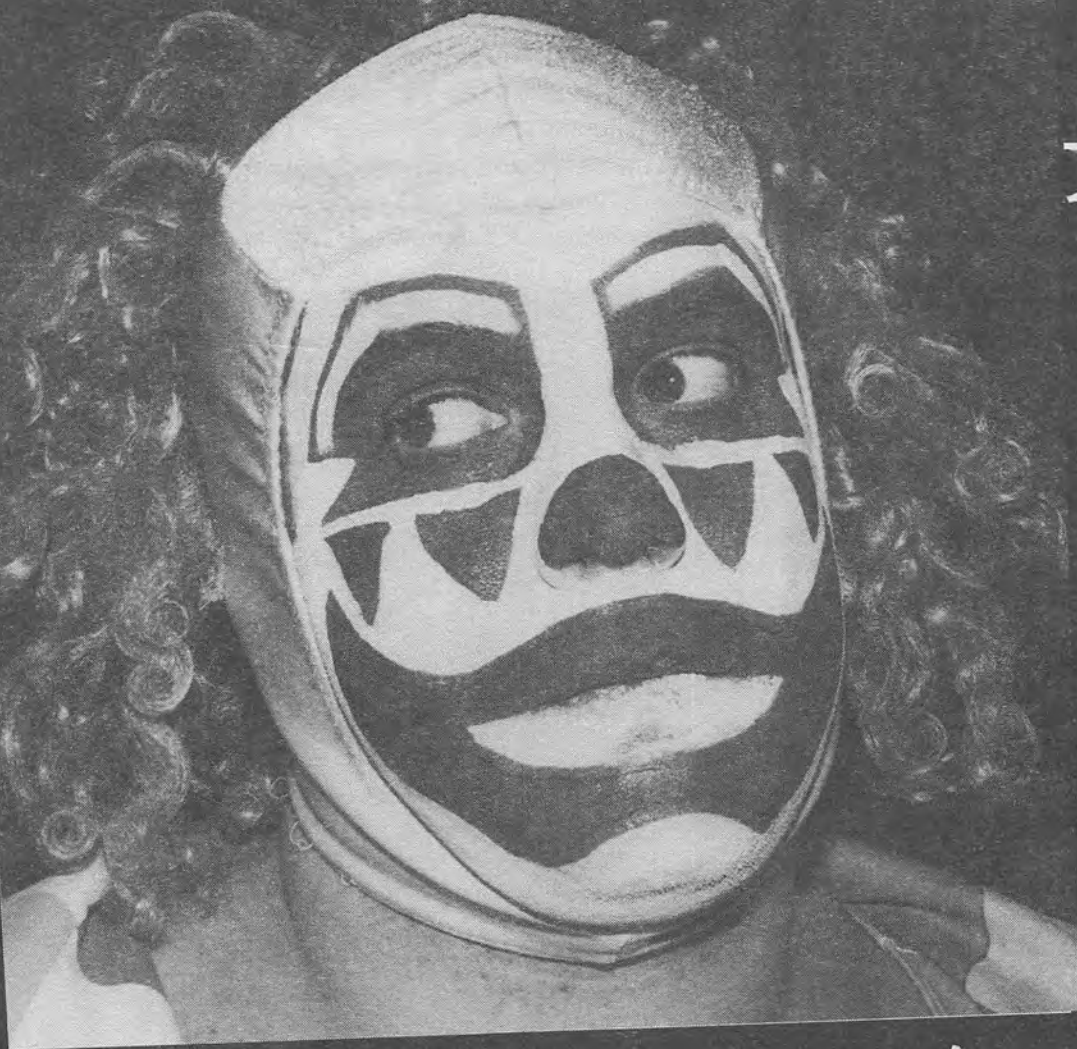
STEVE AUSTIN

Stunning Stud



HULK HOGAN

A League Of His Own



INSIDE WRESTLING GETS A HOT TIP!

DOINK MOONLIGHTS AS A PRELIM BUM!

By Dave Rosenbaum

HE'S OUT THERE.

The clown of your dreams lurks in the runway of a WWF arena somewhere, ready to pounce on an unsuspecting opponent.

Rather, he's ready to lose.

Doink the Clown, the clown prince of paper mache and red makeup, is a real man underneath

all that makeup. But who is he? And what does he do? And where does he go at night?

Well, when Doink the Clown isn't wrestling, he's wrestling.

He wipes off the makeup, puts on a clean pair of traditional wrestling tights, hops into the ring under a different name, wrestles, studies ... and loses.

Nobody knows who he is or when he wrestles. A careful study

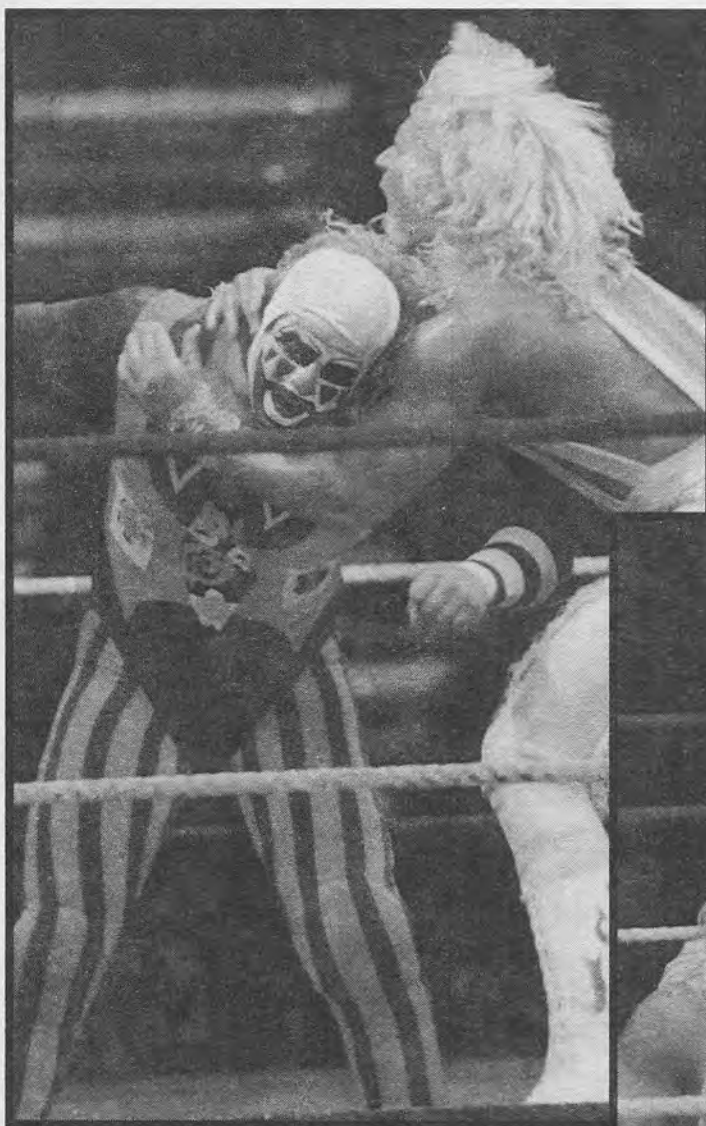
of WWF results from the past six months reveals no obvious pattern. Many wrestlers compete often and lose all the time.

More intriguing is whether Doink the Clown does, indeed, wrestle under a different name and why.

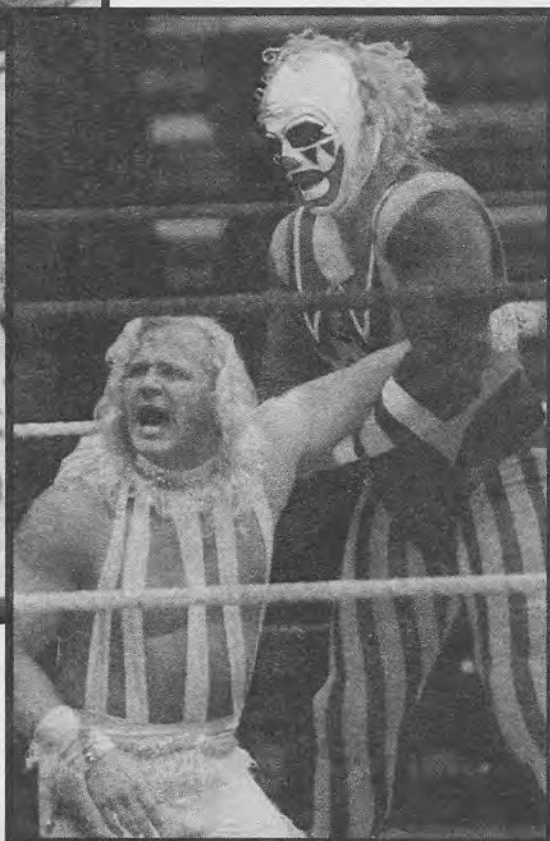
On a hot, sticky summer afternoon in Ambler, Pennsylvania, Senior Editor Bill Apter picked up the phone and got the hot tip of his life.

If it was Bob Woodward picking up the phone, it would've been Deep Throat. If it was Geraldo Rivera, it would have been Al Capone. Apter, however, had no idea who was calling him on this day. But he heard the message clearly enough.

Jarrett is obviously unnerved at Doink's tactics. We wonder how he'd feel if he learned the clown is doing double duty on WWF cards without anyone knowing it.



Jeff Jarrett has his hands full while challenging Doink the Clown. Were "Double-J" wrestling Doink's alter ego, he'd find the going considerably easier, but he wouldn't know he was being scouted for a future—more important—bout.



"Doink the Clown is wrestling on undercards as a preliminary wrestler," said the caller (we'll call him "Deep Clown"). "I don't know why and I'm not sure how often he does it, but he's doing it. I don't even know what he looks like, but my information comes from an impeccable source. Check it out."

So we did.

It was true.

Doink the Clown, who never goes anywhere without his makeup, actually sheds his clown garb once in a while to wrestle in preliminary matches on WWF cards. He never wins these matches, but he often comes back days or weeks later to beat the same wrestlers as Doink the Clown.

We tried to verify this by speaking with several WWF wrestlers. Unfortunately, none of them knew what we were talking about. But an anonymous WWF official told us that the Doink rumor was true. He, too, didn't know the identity of Doink's alter ego. This is an incredible act of deception by a wrestler who has built his reputation on similar ruses. From Doink to Doink II to Doink III, this crazy clown has thought nothing of fooling the public and his opponents. Making a joke is always more important than following the rules. The end justifies the means.

In this case, Doink is taking advantage of one of his most important traits: anonymity. We've long suspected that the Doink wrestling in the WWF now is not the same Doink who came to the federation about two years ago. Maybe he's Doink II or Doink III, or a totally different Doink.

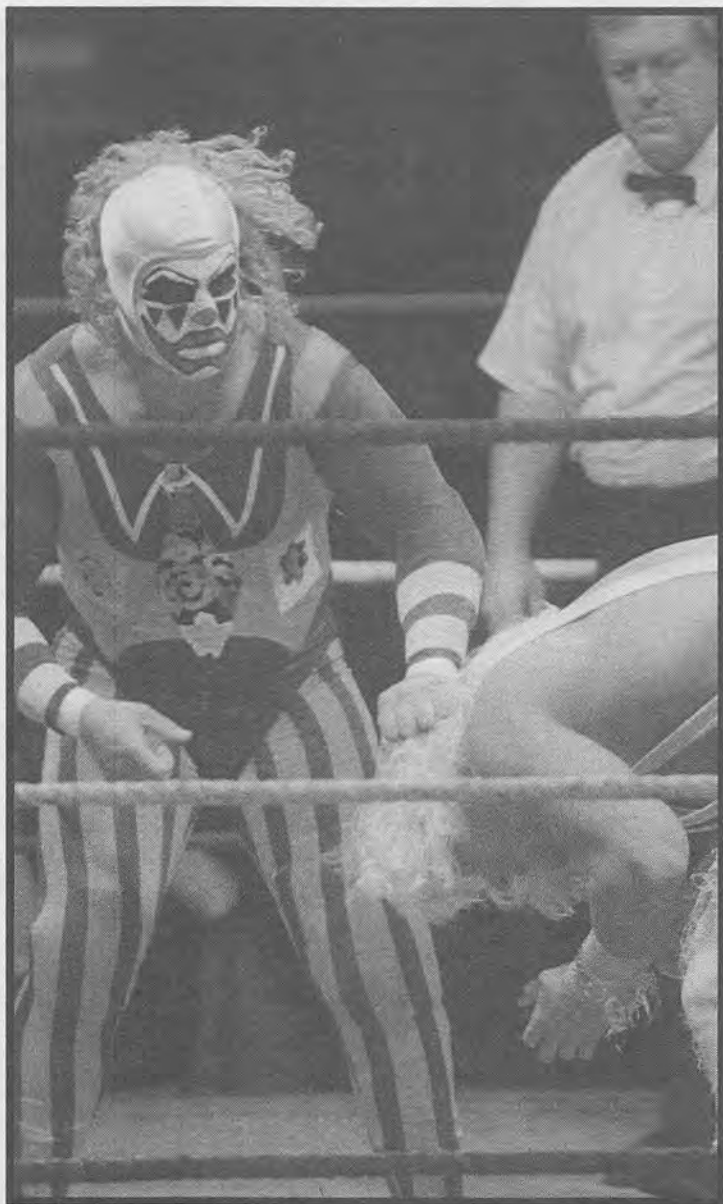
Wrestling experts also suspect that Doink wasn't a rookie when he came to the WWF. Although nobody knows his true identity—

except, perhaps, the person who cashes his paychecks—it's clear Doink wrestled as someone else somewhere else. Maybe even in the WWF.

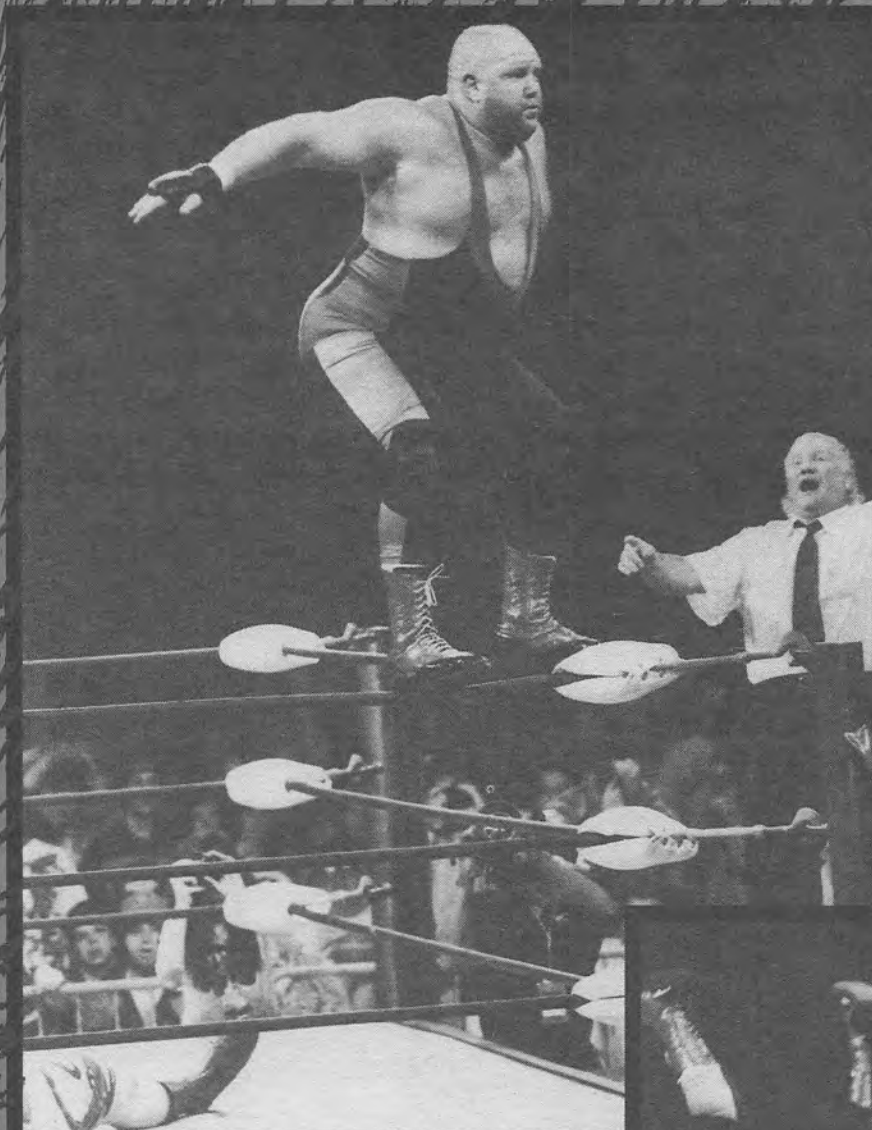
If not for these suspicions, we never would have believed the tip. Doink, however, has earned our distrust and there's ample reason to think this latest ruse is real.

"It's very simple," said Deep Clown. "With his makeup off,

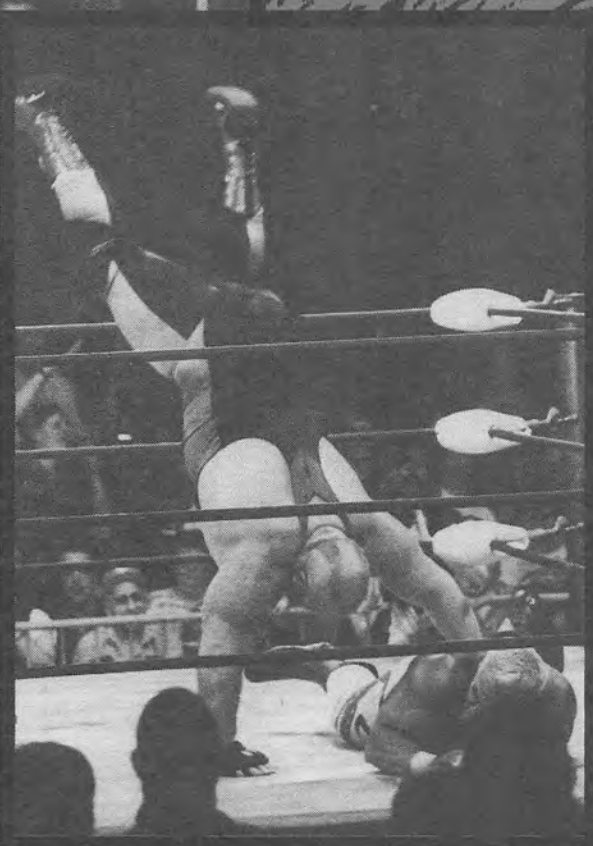
(Continued on page 82)



An angered Doink prepares to take command against Jarrett. If the jester had faced "Double-J" in his other identity as a preliminary wrestler, he may have discovered something to exploit in his matches as a clown.



Harley Race voices his displeasure over Big Van Vader using the moon-sault against Sting (above), who moves away at the last instant and leaves the 450-pounder tumbling out of control (right).



VADER & RACE AT ODDS AGAIN

Whose Move Is Next?

By Chris Bemucca

THE ULTIMATE STRAIN on the precarious relationship between a manager and an athlete is the level of success the pair achieves. Winning makes it easier for both parties to overlook the personality conflicts and power struggles that go on between the two at every level of every sport.

There are exceptions, like the dynastic Oakland Athletics who won three straight World Series from 1972 to 1974 despite constant bickering. For the most part, though, the relationship dissolves when victories become less common. How many tennis players openly pursue new coaches when their game fails them? How many coaches beat a path for the broadcast booth when the angst between themselves and their pampered superstars becomes too much to handle? And how many times do we see sports figures cite "philosophical differences" as their reason for departure?

What appears to have been one of the most loyal allegiances in wrestling seems to be on the verge of separation, perhaps because of the "philosophical differences" that rear their ugly head whenever there is a dropoff in success. Harley Race, a seven-time NWA World champion as a

wrestler and now one of the most successful managers in the sport, is again at odds with Big Van Vader, a three-time WCW World champion.

The 450-pound Vader overpowers opponents with his massive size and strength. Race has contributed as manager by harnessing Vader's rage and conditioning him to ignore pain. Together, the two held the title for all but six days of 1993 and seemed unbeatable. That is, until December 27, when Vader was upset by Ric Flair at Starrcade.

"Hell yes, I was upset when we lost that night," Race said. "But I got over it pretty quickly because I felt it would just be a matter of time before we got the title back. We'd done it before."

But that matter of time has now become six months, and the relationship between Race and Vader becomes more strained every day without the championship belt.

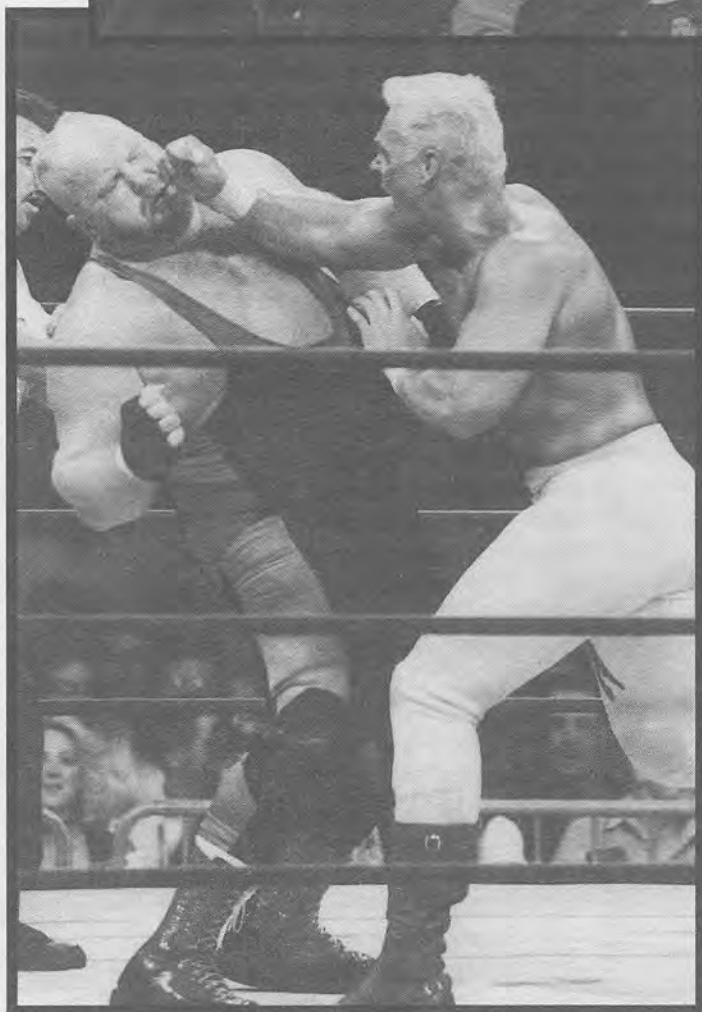
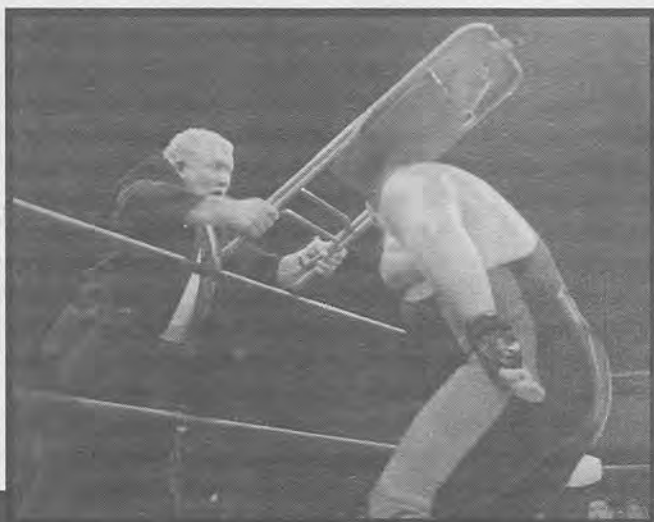
The boiling point came at Slamboree, when Vader lost to Sting. Afterward, Race and Vader were heard screaming at each other in the locker room. Race emerged from the room, blew past the media, and left the Philadelphia Civic Center. But before he departed, he could clearly be heard saying, "There's no need for

It's been a tough year for Big Van Vader, who has gradually faded from the first rank of WCW World title contenders.

Consequently, his relationship with manager Harley Race has become strained.

Where do they go from here?

It certainly didn't help Vader and Race's relationship when the manager accidentally clobbered his wrestler when Sting (out of the photo) hit the mat.



Vader's been taking his lumps in 1994. Despite his size and strength, he has not been able to regain the WCW World title he held for nearly all of 1993. A loss to Sting at Slamboree only took him further out of contention.

that bleep!"

Race was upset that Vader had chosen a key point in the match to employ his moonsault. The move is risky for even the most accomplished aerial wrestler; for a 450-pound man, it's nearly impossible. Vader miscalculated and Sting avoided the blow. Seconds later,

the stunned Vader was the victim of a pin.

Over the past 12 months, Vader has added the moonsault to his already terrifying repertoire. He competed for several years in Japan, where there is more of an emphasis on scientific grappling. Vader also admits he wants to be known as more than a brawler with a gimmick. He discarded his gas-emitting mask two years ago and has improved his ring skills from good to excellent. Many observers consider Vader to be the world's most talented super heavyweight.

"Anyone can be 400 pounds," Vader said recently. "All they have to do is eat a lot. But to be 400 pounds and do what I do in the ring, that's special. The moonsault is both a physical and psychological weapon. When I get into the ring against someone smaller than me—and that's almost all the time—they think they can use their quickness and agility. The moonsault lets them know that they don't have an edge in quickness. It's demoralizing."

Against Sting, though, the deployment of the moonsault was demoralizing for Vader and Race. The manager would like to see his charge use his obvious advantages in size and strength rather than some risky aerial maneuver.

"I like the moonsault," Race said when reached by telephone a couple of days after Slamboree. "But there's a time and place for everything, and that wasn't the time or the place for it. We've beaten Sting in the past simply by overpowering him. Sting's 260 pounds and can only last so long in the ring when he's giving away almost 200 pounds to the most awesome wrestler in WCW. Missing the moonsault gave him a chance to win a match he had no chance to win."

Vader seems intent on using the moonsault to break the stereotype of oversized wrestlers. He

seems to be stubborn, a trait often found in successful athletes. Sugar Ray Leonard disregarded his corner's advice in his initial fight with Roberto Duran and tried to outpunch a puncher; he ended up with the first loss of his career. Charles Barkley continues to shoot three-pointers, even though his field goal percentage from within the arc is among the best in league history; he is still without an NBA title.

But Race is stubborn, too. He believes Vader doesn't need the moonsault to regain the title. He'd like to see Vader stop using the maneuver altogether. And it is hard to convince a person who is perhaps the most successful wrestler/manager in the history of the sport that he is wrong.

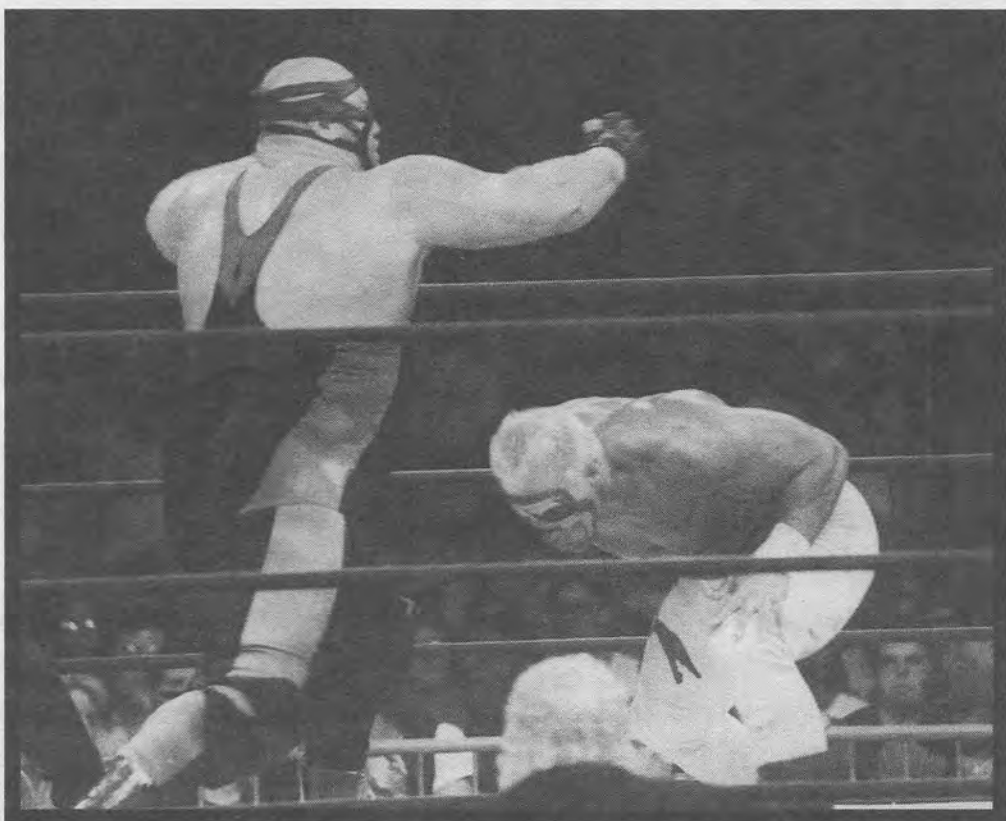
If Vader and Race are to regain the title, they have to put aside their differences and come to an agreement on the use of the moonsault. Race should allow Vader to use the maneuver in preliminary matches, where a mishap

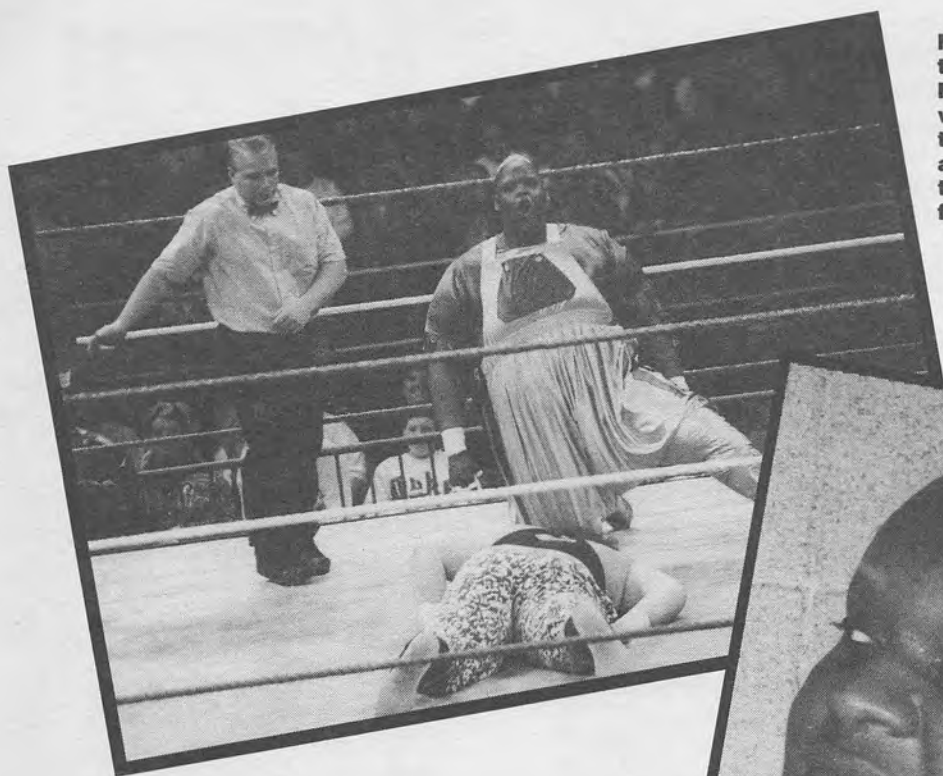
won't cost him as much. Vader should heed the instructions of his manager, who has helped get him to the top three times before. If the title drought continues, though, it won't be long before Vader is executing moonsaults on Race. □

Race would prefer that Vader keep the focus of his attack as close to the mat as possible. The manager says he isn't bothered by Vader's moonsaults as much as against whom he chooses to use them.

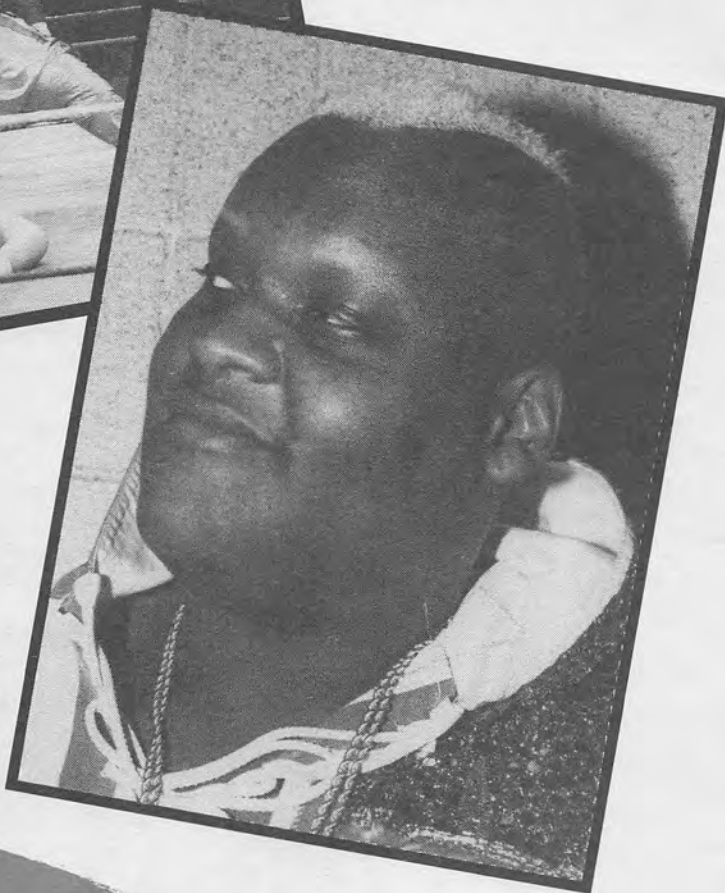


In recent years, Vader has been determined to prove that a super heavy-weight can also be a superb athlete. He has shown fans and opponents that he is far more than a brawler, but he must also understand that he cannot match the quickness of a man like Sting.





Mabel (below) seemed content to be part of Men on a Mission, until his partner Mo was injured. Then he turned to singles wrestling (left) and discovered he was pretty good at it. Now MOM's future is in jeopardy.



MABEL

ON A MISSION: A TAG TEAM NO MO!

An injury to Mo has made Mabel a singles wrestler, but for how long? Some say the separation of the former tag team champions is temporary, but with every match Mabel wins, it looks more permanent!

ATAG TEAM is one of the most precarious relationships in wrestling. With twice the talent, twice the force, and twice the ego of singles wrestlers, it twice as hard to keep it together, let alone at the top of a federation.

Even the truly great partnerships like The Legion of Doom and Rick and Scott Steiner have had their ups and downs as teammates. There have been bitter words between Hawk and Animal since their demise two years ago. For some reason, they have been unable to re-form the partnership that made them the most dominant tag team in history. And while the Steiners are still together, there have been untold stories of disagreements between the brothers. They never achieved the success in the WWF that they enjoyed in WCW.

There are usually two factors that contribute to the demise of a tag team. One is the success level they attain, whether it be too much for the duo to handle or not enough to satisfy them. The other, of course, is an injury to one of them, forcing the other to go it alone.

In the case of Men on a Mission, both factors may be tearing them apart. MOM briefly won the WWF tag team title during the federation's tour of Great Britain, beating The Quebecers before losing to them two days later. Since then, Mo has been sidelined by an injury and Mabel has been competing in singles matches.

"They're definitely at a crossroads," offered WWF expert Thomas Pilliard. "It will be interesting to see what happens when Mo is ready to return, because Mabel looks like he is enjoying singles wrestling and could be a factor in the World title picture."

Things began to unravel for the colorful tag team when Mo suf-

fered an injury at the hands of Owen Hart in a singles bout. Mo was sidelined indefinitely and the two big men discussed their immediate future.

"Mo wanted Mabel to stay active," revealed one WWF fan favorite who considers both men friends. "He figured that there was no need for both of them to get rusty. He would rehabilitate himself and if Mabel stayed sharp, he could carry the team for a while until Mo was ready to turn loose. In theory, it was a good strategy, because they figured it would prevent them from falling too far in the rankings."

In theory, it was a good strategy. At 6'8", 503 pounds, Mabel could handle much of the ring work once Mo returned, allowing his partner to ease back into action. But while Mo was sidelined, Mabel would turn his energies toward singles matches in order to keep the competitive edge he would need when Mo finally did return.

It would have been understandable if Mabel looked for matches against lesser opponents so as not to risk injury himself. The idea was just for him to kill time until Mo was ready to compete again. Instead, Mabel nearly went off the competitive scale. He immersed himself in series of matches against a pair of tough opponents.

First, he tangled with Yokozuna, the former champion and one of the most formidable forces in the



Mabel's turning point may have come when he faced Bam Bam Bigelow in a series of bouts. He held his own against the "Beast From The East," boosting his status as a singles competitor.

sport. Next, he went after Bam Bam Bigelow, another big man and a title contender in his own right. Mabel held his own in these bouts, winning and losing a fair amount by both pinfall and disqualification. The results of these matches perhaps told Mabel something he did not realize about

himself: In addition to his tag team success, he was among the better singles wrestlers in the federation.

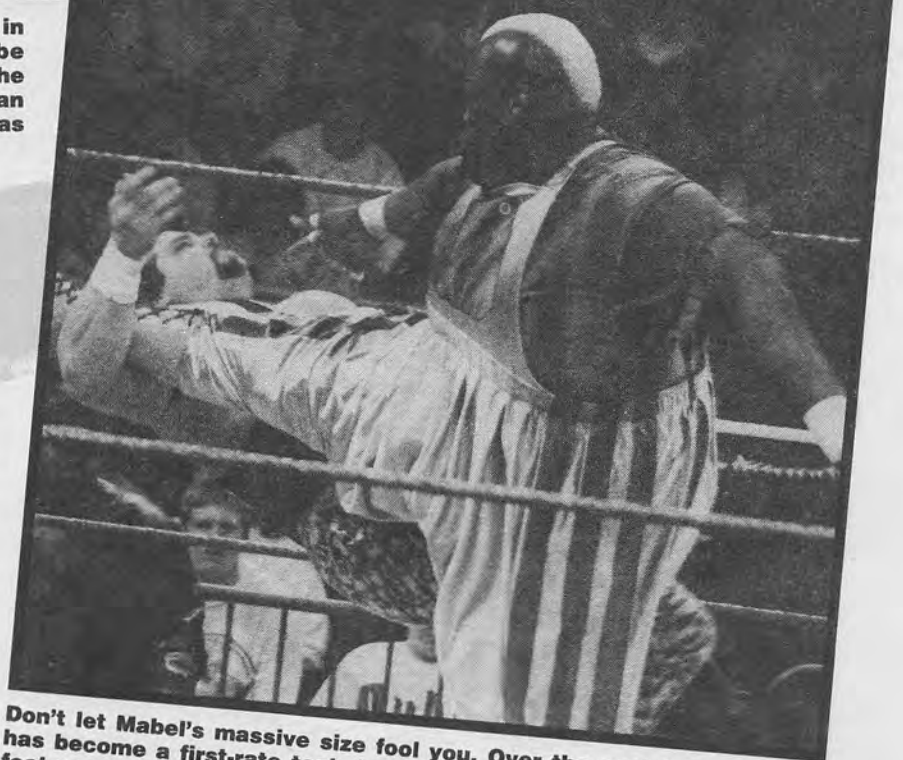
"I think he surprised a lot of people, including himself," one WWF fan favorite said. "These guys were considered clowns by a lot of wrestlers, especially the rulebreakers. But they changed their minds when they saw what Mabel did against Yokozuna and Bigelow."

Mabel, who is clownish only in his happy-go-lucky demeanor, did surprise himself. He gained more confidence with each singles match against a top-notch opponent, and that may have somewhat inflated his ego. If he was this good as a singles wrestler, why should he compete in tag teams and share the glory when he could have it all to himself?

"Every tag team wrestler who competes in singles goes through it," said Dr. Sidney M. Basil, the



Before taking on Bigelow, many in the WWF considered Mabel to be buffoonish. But they discovered the huge man is all business, who can take punishment and give it out as well as any big man in the sport.



Don't let Mabel's massive size fool you. Over the past few months, he has become a first-rate technical wrestler, and has learned to use his feet as an offensive weapon.



the right focus, MOM could easily regain the belts and be champions for a long time. But that can't happen until Mo returns to the ring, and by then, it may be too late. The success enjoyed by Mabel as a singles wrestler could end the tag team careers of both men.

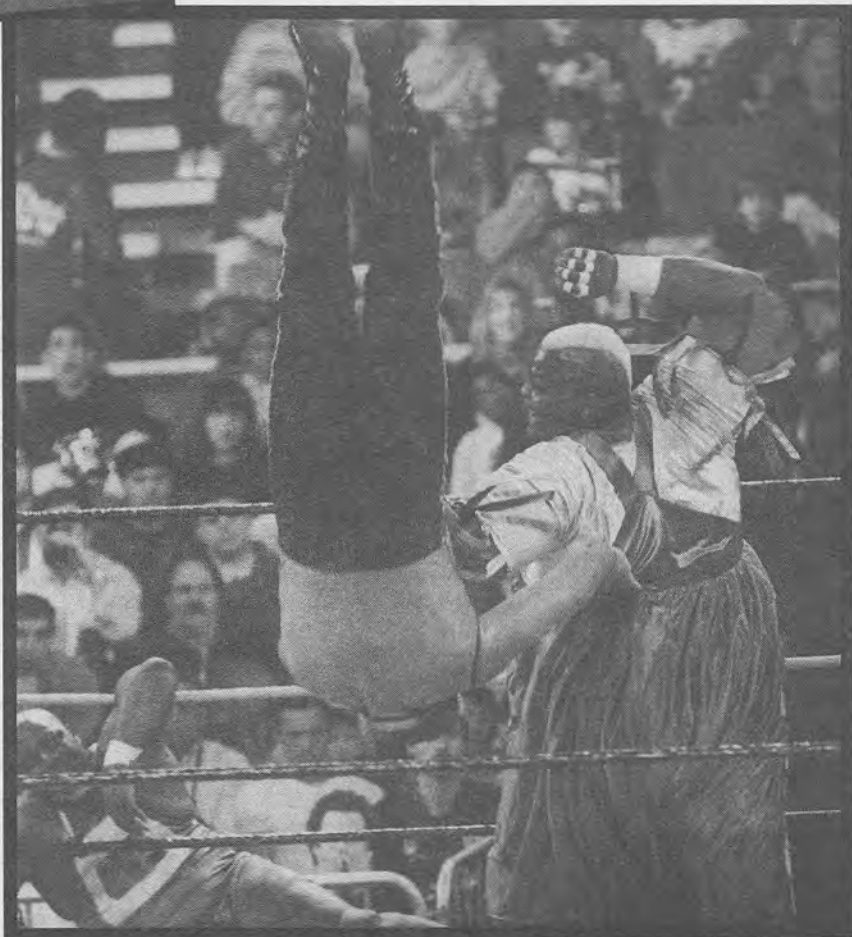
Meanwhile, Mo continues his rehabilitation, hoping he still has a partner when he returns to the ring. If he doesn't, he's sure to have an opponent. □

Mabel and Mo were united earlier this year (left), but Mabel's solo success (below) could mean that in future matches, Mo will be watching from the sidelines full-time.

noted wrestling psychologist. "There are conflicting feelings of selfishness and pride. The amounts vary in each individual, but I have seen the emotions conspire to bring an abrupt end to some of the sport's best teams."

The duo's short-lived term at the top doesn't make things any easier. Where once Mabel may have thought their title loss to The Quebecers may have been the result of interference or inexperience, his own inflated opinion of himself may enable him to blame his sidelined opponent for that loss, making it easier to sever ties between them.

Mabel has a tough decision to make between loyalty and glory. Most observers believe that despite the title loss, this is a tag team that is still improving and is on the verge of greatness. With





DORY FUNK JR.

"MY BABY BROTHER'S GOT MY BLOOD BOILING AGAIN!"

HIS SOMETIMES considered the sane member of the Funk family. Like his younger brother Terry, Dory Funk Jr. has passed his 50th birthday, but isn't ready to step away from the squared circle just yet.

Until recently, Dory Jr., a former NWA World champion, had been keeping a relatively low profile, wrestling only occasionally in Japan. Then he was contacted by Smoky Mountain manager Jim Cornette, who is trying to convince fans that Dory Jr., not Bob Armstrong, should be SMW commissioner. So far, he is receiving minimal public support for his plan.

These days, Funk is doing more than observing in SMW. He recently interfered in a Randy Savage-Bruiser Bedlam bout, then actually wrestled a match to Tracey Smothers a few days later.

When Terry started getting more than he could handle on his own from Paul E. Dangerously and his ECW stable, he called on his brother for assistance. At press time, the Funks were preparing to wrestle Public Enemy, the ECW tag team champions, in Philadelphia.

Contributing Editor Matt Brock has known the Funks for more than 30 years. He recently sat down with



Dory Funk Jr. is proud to say that when he faced Tracey Smothers in Smoky Mountain not long ago, "the so-called old man whipped his butt." However, he neglects to mention that Smothers won the match.

Dory Jr. before a Smoky Mountain card in Morristown, Tennessee. "The Funks will never change," reported Brock. "Dory Jr. is from the old school, part of a dying breed of wrestler, I guess. Today's wrestlers could learn a lot by watching old tapes of his matches. It will be

wrestling's loss when he finally decides to leave the sport."

Q: You seem upset by something, Dory.

A: I am. You guys don't report the facts like you used to, Brock.

Q: What are you talking about?

A: You guys reported that Bruiser Bedlam had pinned Randy Savage after using a pair of brass knuckles.

Q: That's right.

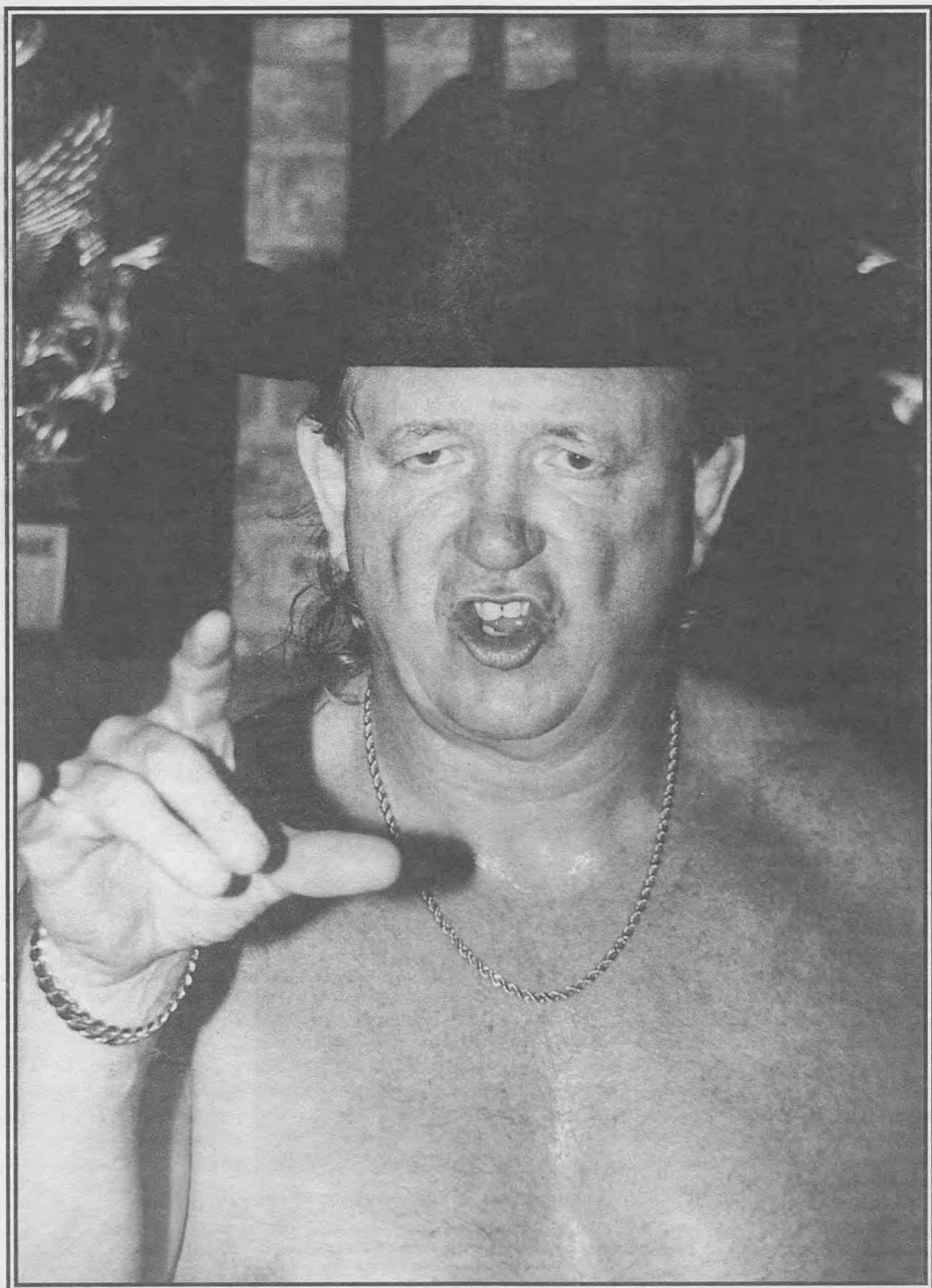
A: That's wrong, you old fool. Randy Savage was on the top rope ready to dive onto Bedlam when I pushed him off the ropes. Then Bedlam used the brass knuckles. That's what really happened.

Q: You're proud of that?

A: You're damn right I am. Anytime I can ruin a match for a rat like Randy Savage or the "Dirty White Boy" or Tracey Smothers, I'll do it. I don't care what people say. If I don't like someone, they better be watching their back all the time. You never know when or where I'll attack.

Q: Savage said you're too old to wrestle. In fact, he said that's why you attacked him but wouldn't wrestle him.

A: I'm not old. Bob Armstrong is old. Jim Cornette, who's a good friend of mine by the way, said Armstrong's so old he's got a bad back from gettin' out of cov-



ered wagons. Look, I'd wrestle Savage anytime, any place. If you check his contract, you'd see he was only going to be in Smoky Mountain for a few matches and those matches were already signed. He knew he wouldn't have to wrestle me. I begged to wrestle him, but he had to go back to the WWF.



"I don't care what people say. If I don't like someone, they better be watching their back all the time."

Q: Admit it, Dory, you're quite a bit older than he is. Could you really give a guy his age a run for his money?

A: Hey, Brock, why don't you take that Mickey Mouse tape recorder of yours and go interview Tracey Smothers? He's around the same age, maybe younger than Savage. Ask Smothers how the so-called old man whipped his butt. Ask him how I applied hold after hold. Ask him how we brawled outside the ring and how out of breath he was afterward. I may be older according to the numbers, but I am a young man both physically and mentally.

Q: Bob Armstrong is Smoky Mountain commissioner. You want his job, don't you?

A: Smoky Mountain is a great organization. I have been in wrestling as a wrestler, promoter, and a ton of other jobs. With my reputation, I would be a plus for the promotion as commissioner. Armstrong always makes rules just to suit his friends. I would never do that. I'm an honest man.

Q: You're friends with Jim Cornette and Tammy Fytch. If you were commissioner and they asked you for a favor, what would you do?

A: If their request was honorable, which it would be coming from Mr. Cornette or the beautiful Ms. Fytch, I would grant it. I told you: I'm an honest man. You can trust me.

Q: A few weeks ago, your wife, Marti, a photographer for our publications, took a picture of a brick inside that beautiful Ms. Fytch's

purse. She used that purse on Robert Gibson, allowing Brian Lee to pin him.

A: Simple answer. Tammy is always being harassed by construction workers when she walks down city streets. That day, she happened to leave her purse open and one of the workers, who was ogling her, slipped and a brick he was holding fell into her purse. She tried to show it to Gibson later that night, and hit him by mistake. Tammy would never hit a person on purpose with a brick. Marti did her job. She took the photo, but your magazines reported the incident all wrong, as usual.

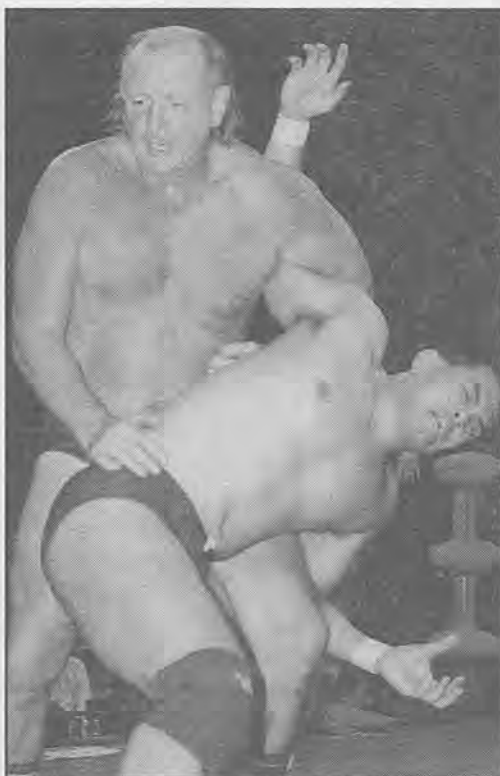
Q: Not many people would agree with you on that, including your wife. People also say that you're slowing down in the ring, Dory. Even your brother Terry says you aren't what you used to be.

A: Terry said that? My baby brother's got my blood boiling again! Terry's not what he used to be, either. He's more nuts than ever before. As for me, I haven't changed. I've got to talk to that little brat and straighten him out.

Q: I'm not trying to start trouble between the two of you. Looks like I hit a bit of a sore spot.

A: You sure did. But remember, there's plenty of bickering in every family. You and your ex-fiance, Emma, used to fight like dogs if I remember right. You even split up because of it. Terry and me have our disagreements, but they always pass, like this one will. Sorry if I hit a sore spot with you.

Q: Oh, Emma (sighs). Anyway Dory, you'll be teaming with Terry in Eastern Championship Wrestling by the time this interview hits the newsstands. You guys want



Funk (applying an abdominal stretch on Masao Inoue) is still popular in Japan, and competes there several times a year. The respect is mutual—he teaches a course in speaking Japanese at a community college in Florida.

the tag team champions, Public Enemy, real bad. Why?

A: Those hoodlums went to Amarillo and vandalized our Double-Cross Ranch. They stole our stuff, spray-painted the walls, destroyed the whole place. Nobody ever got away with anything like that. You can't disgrace



"Terry's ... more nuts than ever before. As for me, I haven't changed. I've got to talk to that little brat and straighten him out."

a Funk and get away with it. Terry and I will make them pay with their blood.

Q: It's well-known that you used to be quite respected over there in Japan. What ...

A: Wait a second, Brock. What do you mean *used to be*?

Q: You don't wrestle there as often as you used to.

A: Brock, I still compete at least several times a year in Japan. As a matter of fact, I am now issuing a challenge to the great Triple Crown champion Mitsuharu Misawa. I am still a legend in Japan. I have beaten its best. I've had wars against Baba, Stan Hansen,

you name 'em. Every one of those guys will agree that I deserve a shot at the Triple Crown.

Q: What about a shot at a crown here in the good ol' U.S.A. There's Bret Hart's WWF title, Ric Flair's WCW belt ...

A: History shows that I was one of the greatest world heavyweight champions in history. If I wanted to wrestle for a world belt, I would. But I've been there before. Bring me new challenges, not old ones.

Q: Is there anyone in wrestling you regard as especially talented today?

A: Ric Flair, Bret Hart, Misawa, Shawn Michaels, my baby brother Terry, and Sabu all come to mind.

Q: Sabu and Terry are sworn enemies.

A: That doesn't mean I can't respect his abilities. As a matter of fact, Terry has told me that he admires the guy, too. A Funk

looks forward to battling for survival in a match. When you get into the ring against Sabu, you can be sure you're in for a war. The guy is a genius and a madman at the same time. I haven't seen too many people I can say that about.

Q: I understand that between wrestling commitments, you're also teaching school in Florida.

A: That's right. I teach a course called "Beginning Japanese For Business And Pleasure" at Central Florida Community College. As I said before, I am not only a wrestling machine, but a very intelligent man. I could teach economics, brain surgery, anything. I am like an encyclopedia. I love Japan and the people there, so this class, teaching mainly Americans, is a real kick for me.

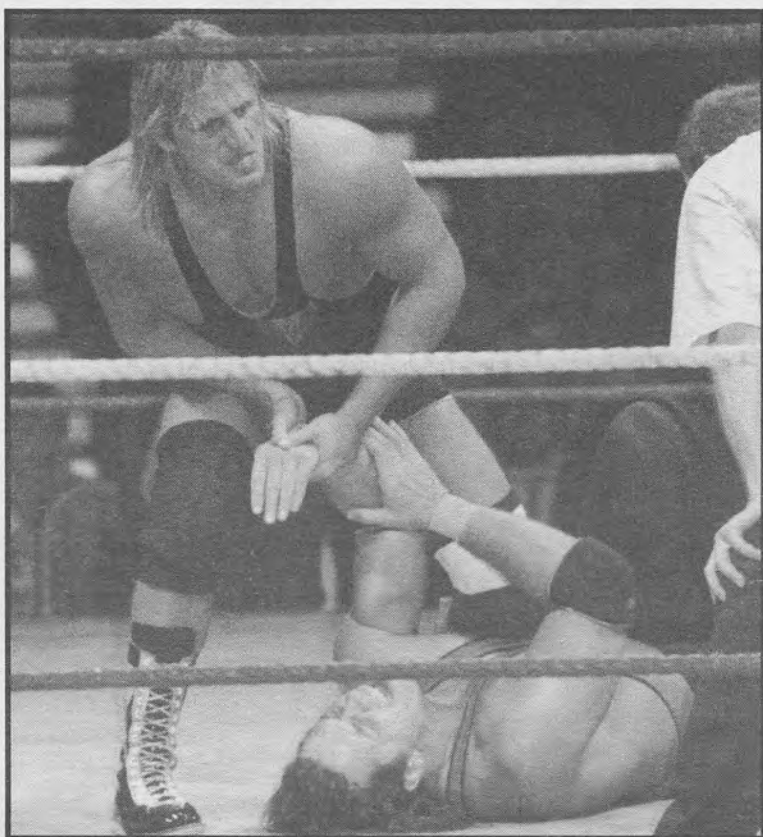
Q: Thanks for your time, Dory.

A: Okay, old geezer. See you around. □



The Funks are among wrestling's elite families. Here's how Terry, Dory Jr., and the late Dory Sr. appeared in 1972 when Dory was NWA World champion. Both sons are now past 50, but retain their zest for wrestling and life in general.

GETTING TO THE HART OF THE MATTER: OWEN AND BRET'S SIBLINGS SPEAK OUT



They used to be one big
happy family. But the Harts
of Calgary have been torn apart by
the raging battle between brothers
Owen and Bret. A dark cloud
hangs over their abode

The brothers and sisters of Bret and Owen Hart are stunned their feud has lasted as long as it has. Bruce Hart can't understand why, since he says Owen has always idolized his older brother.

By Dave Rosenbaum

THE FAMILY IS like something out of a TV show. They are the living Waltons. They are what would have happened if the Von Erich family got it right.

They are the Harts, a family bound by blood and devotion, torn apart by the sudden battle between Owen and Bret, the two brothers who always had so much in common.

They go about their daily business in much the same way as before the brother-vs.-brother battle put them at the center of wrestling scandal, but this fraternal feud never leaves their minds.

"It lurks, and then it comes out about four or five times a day," said Ellie Hart, one of eight Hart siblings. "I'll be doing something and then it'll just hit me and I'll be

depressed for about five minutes. Then it goes away. They're grown men. They should be able to handle this problem, even if they're acting like babies."

Our trip to Calgary, Alberta, to visit with the Harts was a learning experience. It made us realize how close this family really is and the trauma

involved in the Owen vs. Bret feud. The family was completely unprepared for what happened at the Survivor Series, and even more shocked by Owen's second turn against Bret at the Royal Rumble.

That this feud has lingered is the biggest surprise of all.

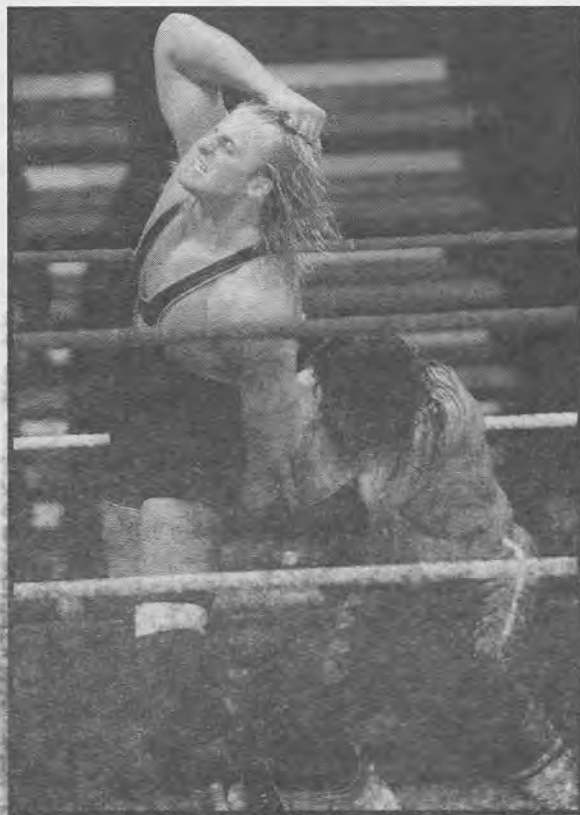
"The fact of the matter is that Owen loves his family and has always idolized Bret," Bruce Hart said. "The real Owen never would have hurt his parents so badly. That's why I have to think somebody poisoned his brain and made him think that way. Personally, I never realized he was thinking these thoughts."

Keith Hart said he had an inkling there might be trouble right before the Survivor Series, when the Harts teamed against Shawn Michaels' team.

"He seemed distracted and he kept on talking about how much money Bret makes," Keith said. "But I just passed it off as idol chatter. You know, there's always a little jealousy in every family. Every child thinks his brother or sister is getting preferential treatment. What hurts is the way Owen acted upon his feelings. That's just not right."

Georgia Hart said "Owen is to blame for starting it," but Bret also is to blame for letting it continue.

"Bret has control of his actions," she said. "He could've just said, 'Listen, I'm not wrestling my brother. Call me a coward, say I'm protecting my championship, but I'm just not doing it anymore.' But he refused to. I think Bret's as involved in this as Owen is right now, and that's what scares me."



Georgia Hart blames Owen for instigating the feud, but she doesn't hold Bret blameless. She contends he could have declined to wrestle his brother if he had really wanted to.

Bret has no intention of stopping until he proves to the world that he's better than Owen.

"Whatever that'll get him."

Bret has, indeed, dominated the feud since losing to Owen at

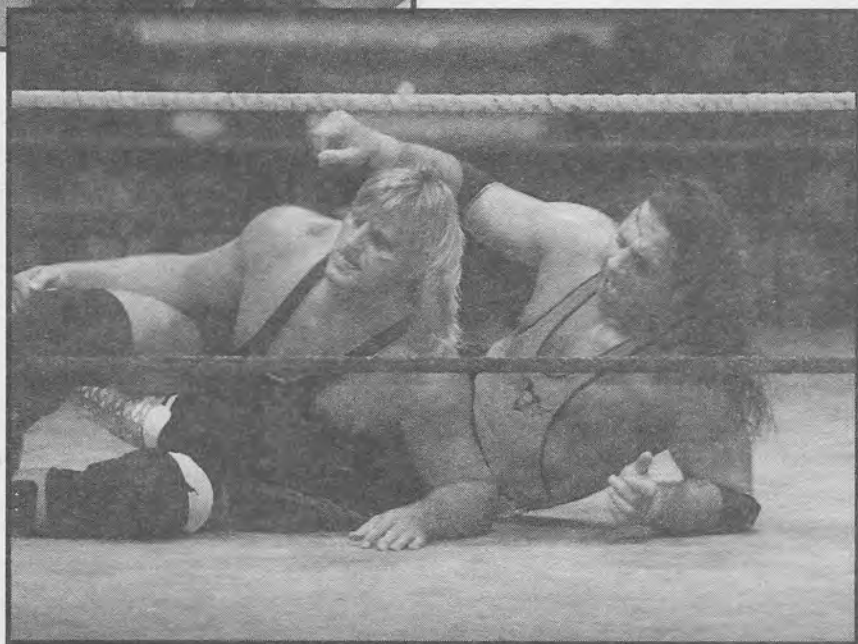
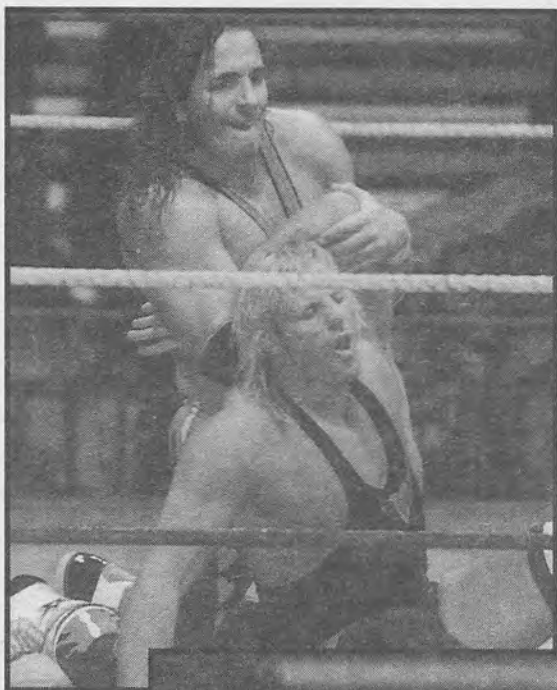
worries Wayne Hart.

"This should be over by now," he said. "Owen got his big victory at WrestleMania and Bret's been winning since then. Fine. Owen got his chance in the spotlight. I think the worst thing that ever happened was Bret winning the World title the second time. That put Bret back in the spotlight, even though he lost to Owen, and got Owen thinking, *Why can't I be champion, too? Why does he get everything?*"

Each Hart sibling differs on his or her view of the situation. What doesn't differ are their feelings about the feud and how it has affected a tightly knit family.

"It's a real mess," Georgia said. "The family's torn up about it and my father hasn't been sleeping nights. He thinks all this is his

While Owen was able to surprise Bret at WrestleMania X, big brother has dominated the feud since then. Wayne Hart wishes Owen would be able to direct his anger on someone else.



According to Georgia Hart, the fraternal rivalry is beginning to affect family patriarch Stu Hart. She says her father has trouble sleeping nights, and considers himself to blame for the feud.

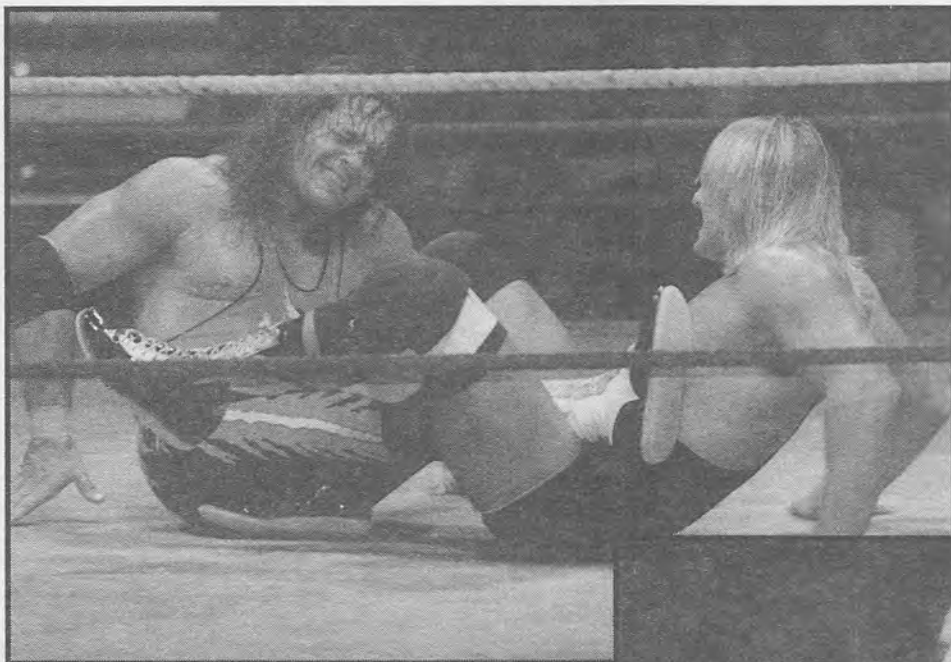
WrestleMania. He has scored one pinfall victory on top of another. But Owen refuses to go away. The feud keeps going. That's what

fault. I keep telling him that sometimes these things happen in families and he always has the same answer: 'Not in my family.'

"How can I argue with that? I wouldn't want to."

The family has been forced to deal with rumor and conjecture. Never before has the Hart family been forced to endure such a

"The only thing I know is that they're breaking my parents' hearts," Ellie said. "I don't care who's right and who's wrong. It takes two to tango, and brothers shouldn't be fighting." □



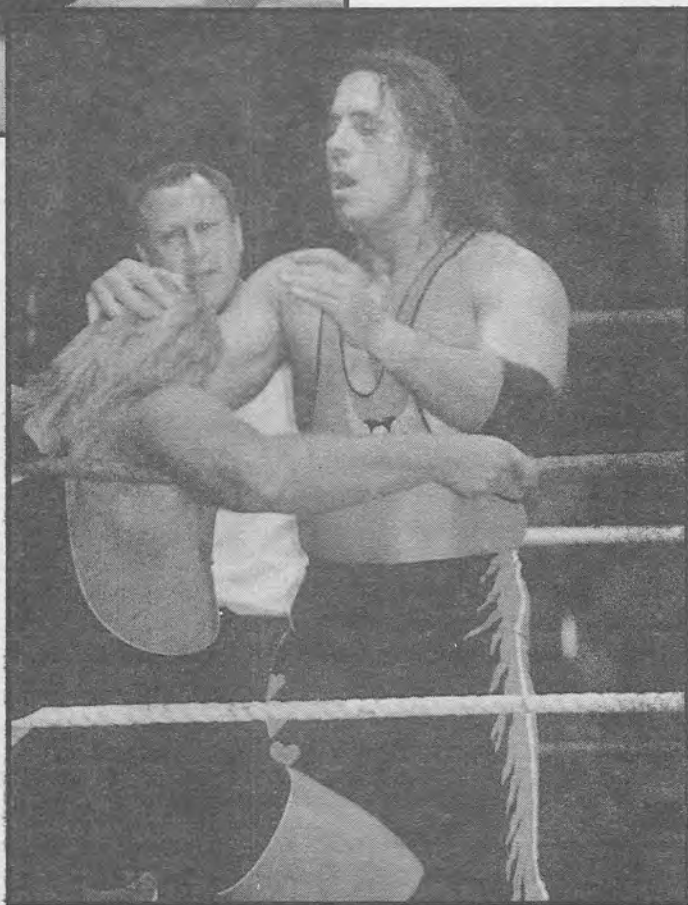
Why did Stu and Helen Hart decline to attend WrestleMania X? Georgia says they were hoping that the match was a one-time thing, and that watching might have encouraged Bret and Owen to continue wrestling each other.

harsh, cruel spotlight.

"What really got me was the way everybody was making things up about why my mother and father weren't at WrestleMania," Georgia said. "Well, it had nothing to do with what anyone said. My parents were hoping that would be the only time Bret and Owen would have to wrestle each other and then it would be all done afterward. They didn't want to encourage them with their presence."

"Now look at what's happened."

The Hart brothers and sisters can't bear to look. They're sick of this damn feud. They want to be one, big happy family all over again. Curses to the spotlight.



Now Bret and Owen's siblings sadly follow the brothers' battles, knowing they're powerless to do anything to stop them ... and knowing the matches only deepen their parents' emotional wounds.

WRESTLING HONORS THE SUPERSTARS OF YESTERYEAR

By Dave Lenker

"IT'S JUST NOT like it was in the old days ..."

Complain, complain, complain. Sometimes it seems like that's all the old-time wrestling fans do these days. They long for the days when Lou Thesz or Buddy Rogers matched their opponents hold for hold in thrilling 60-minute marathons.

Today, scientific classics are much less common than ladder matches, falls-count-anywhere bouts, and matches in which weapons like trash cans and hockey sticks are legal. Has the sport strayed too far from its roots? Have promoters forgotten the past?

This spring, the WWF and WCW made sure yesteryear's legends wouldn't be forgotten, holding elaborate Hall of Fame induction ceremonies.

WCW held its ceremony during the intermission of Slamboree at Philadelphia's Civic Center. Broadcasting icon Gordon Solie waxed eloquent at the second annual festivities, at which Ole Anderson, The Assassin, Crusher, Dick the Bruiser, Ernie Ladd, and Harley Race were officially enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

It capped off an exciting weekend in the City of Brotherly Love. The night before, fans were able to mingle with the legends of yesterday and some of the stars of today at a special Slamboree reception.

Two weeks later, the WWF honored some of its finest at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore. Fred Blassie, Bobo Brazil, James Dudley, Gorilla Monsoon, Buddy Rogers, Arnold Skaaland, and Chief Jay

Strongbow were inducted.

Current WWF World champion Bret Hart and two-time former champ Randy Savage both paid tribute to their wrestling heroes at the outset of the ceremony.

"You really feel like you must've left your mark in wrestling history when WCW and the WWF hold special ceremonies like these," said "Big Cat" Ernie Ladd, who was also a special guest at the WWF dinner. "We helped pave the way for the stars of today. It's nice to be remembered and appreciated."

INSIDE WRESTLING was also on hand at both the WCW legends reception and the WWF Hall of Fame dinner. Join us as we relive those two special nights with these exclusive photos!

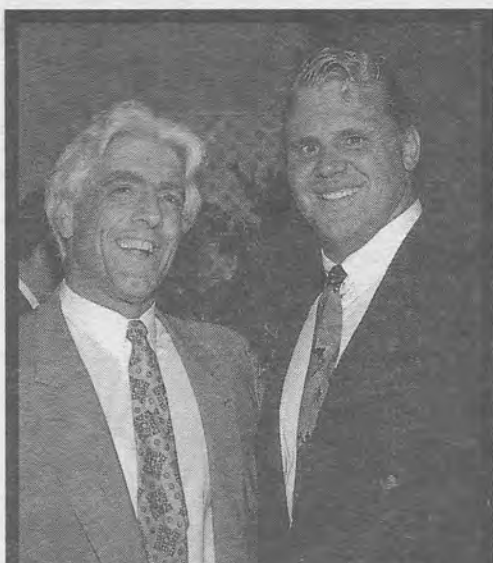
Wrestling has a long and glorious heritage, as any veteran fan will attest. America's two largest promotions haven't forgotten, as both WCW and the WWF recently inducted greats of the past into their respective Halls of Fame

Photos by Bill Apter



A gathering of legends at the WCW legends reception: Top row (left to right): Greg Gagne, Lou Thesz, Hard Boiled Haggerty, Wahoo McDaniel, Terry Funk, Red Bastien, Killer Kowalski, Johnny Weaver, Larry Hennig, Penny Banner, Angelo Mosca. Middle row: Ernie Ladd, Crusher, Michelle & Tim Replogle (Dick the Bruiser's daughter & son-in-law), Harley Race, Assassin I, Don Curtis, promoter Jim Barnett. Bottom row: Ray Stevens, Nick Bockwinkel, Sir William Dundee, Gordon Solie, Mr. Wrestling II, referee Tommy Young, Tully Blanchard.

WCW LEGENDS REUNION, PHILADELPHIA



WCW World champion Ric Flair surprised everyone by agreeing to pose with "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig. The two were bitter rivals in the WWF. Hennig was there to honor his dad, Larry Hennig, who was among the inductees.



With the exception of Verne Gagne, Nick Bockwinkel was the most dominant wrestler in the history of the now-defunct AWA. The current WCW commissioner poses with former manager Bobby Heenan and his championship tag team partner, "Crippler" Ray Stevens.



They had many wars in Texas, and Red Bastien is still sure he could beat Terry Funk today. Here, Bastien jokingly tries to prove his point by squeezing Terry's hand until Funk had to cry "uncle."



A past and a possible future champion. That's Hall of Fame inductee Harley Race with his son Jason, who has been competing for several months in Midwest independents.

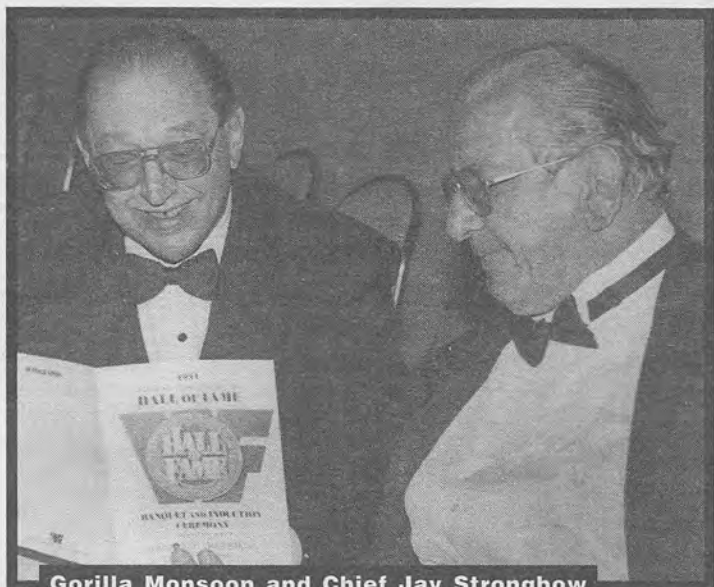


Ernie Ladd takes time to reminisce with "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff about the days when both wrestled in the Mid-South region during the 1970s. At the time, Ladd predicted stardom for Orndorff, and he was right!



Hard Boiled Haggerty, Mr. Wrestling II, and promoter Jim Barnett share stories about the "good old days" in Atlanta, where II and Barnett spent most of their time. Haggerty eventually became a movie actor in Hollywood.

WWF HALL OF FAME DINNER, BALTIMORE



Gorilla Monsoon and Chief Jay Strongbow look over the program announcing their induction into the WWF Hall of Fame. The two still work for the federation, Monsoon as a broadcaster and Strongbow a talent scout.

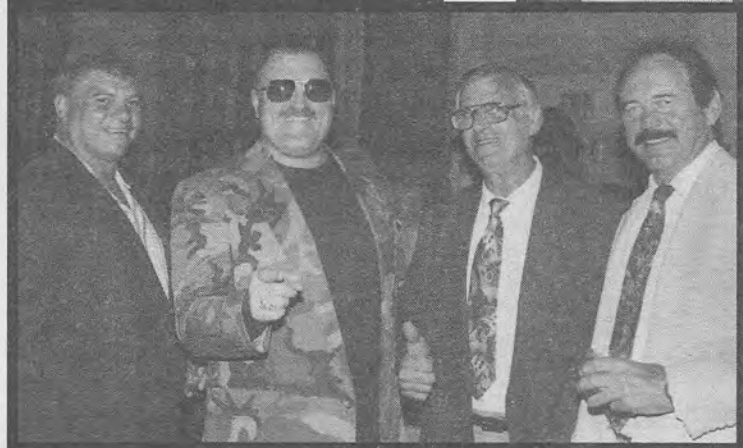


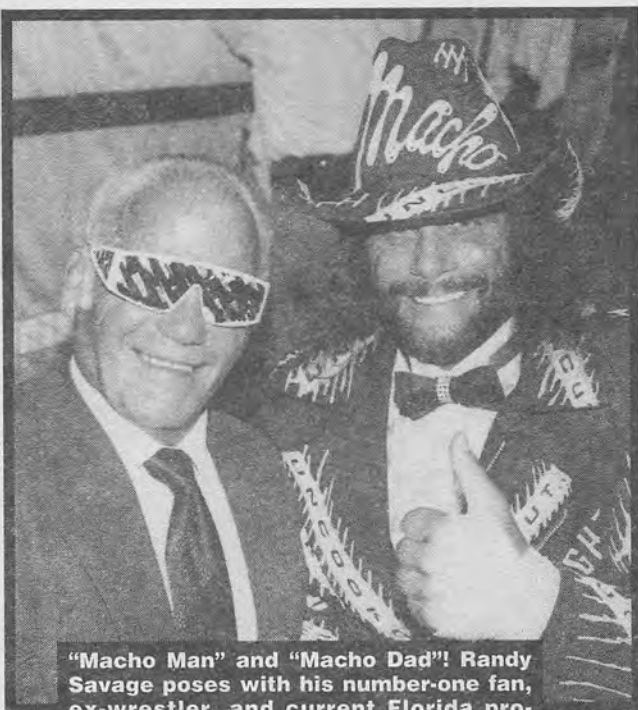
"Luscious" Johnny and "Handsome" Jimmy Valiant hadn't seen each other for 10 years. But it was no problem getting them to pose, just as they used to when they were WWF tag team champions in the mid-'70s

Veterans Don Muraco, Sgt. Slaughter, and Blackjack Lanza pose with a man they all idolized, Baron Mikel Scicluna (third from left). The Baron, a native of the Isle of Malta, is enjoying his retirement in Pittsburgh.



The scars of war behind them, Fred Blassie and Bobo Brazil—who had one of wrestling's hottest feuds—discuss their past bouts. Blassie was very polite but told us Brazil was still a "pencil-necked geek!"

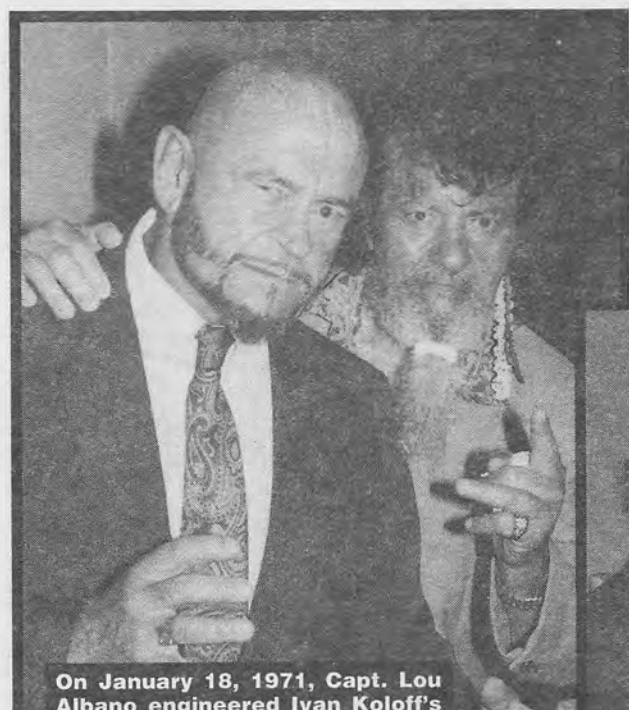




"Macho Man" and "Macho Dad"! Randy Savage poses with his number-one fan, ex-wrestler, and current Florida promoter Angelo Poffo. Dad says he still trains with Randy whenever their schedules coincide.



Tito Santana and Ivan Putski won the WWF World tag team title from Johnny and Jerry Valiant in 1979 and had much to talk about at the reunion. Putski owns a training center in Texas, while Santana wrestles regularly on independent cards.



On January 18, 1971, Capt. Lou Albano engineered Ivan Koloff's shocking upset of World champion Bruno Sammartino. The two were ecstatic to see each other. Koloff, who is still active, discussed the possibility of reuniting with his old manager.



Gorilla Monsoon and Killer Kowalski, two of the most feared rulebreakers in WWF history, became bitter enemies when Monsoon became a fan favorite. In spite of appearances, all is well between them now.

The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

ONE ON ONE

THEY SHOULD BE friends. "Rowdy" Roddy Piper and Jerry "The King" Lawler are too much alike not to see themselves in each other. But perhaps that's what makes Piper and Lawler such abrasive bedfellows. We see most in others what we dislike about ourselves.

Both have achieved fame on a national scale and are regional celebrities. Lawler is a local legend in Memphis, where fans willingly bow to their "King." Piper is among the most famous athletes in Portland, Oregon.

Nationally, Lawler gained the most fame for his feud with comedian Andy Kaufman in 1982. He defended the AWA World title in several other federations later in the decade. Lawler now is his own court jester on WWF telecasts.

Piper, the most hated man in the NWA and Mid-Atlantic area during the early-1980s, earned national attention at WrestleMania I, when he wrestled in the main event. Piper grabbed the spotlight and soon became a national celebrity. A fast wit, sarcasm, and ability took Piper a long way and into a movie career.

Piper, who had a troubled youth, will admit his self-centered nature and has tried to make amends by devoting time and attention to the Toronto Children's Home. That's where he bedded down after running away from home several times.

But Lawler found nothing noble in Piper's charitable acts. The feud started when Lawler, the host of "King's Court" on WWF broadcasts, belittled



"The best thing you can do is get down on your hands and knees and bow to 'The King.' Simply beg for my forgiveness and hope that I'm having a good day."

—Jerry Lawler

"Piper's Pit," Piper's former TV spot. Lawler then insulted the patients in the Children's Home. That was all Piper could take. He came out of retirement to wrestle Lawler at the "King Of The Ring" pay-per-view.

Lawler vs. Piper is the classic wrestling feud, based on insults and pride. And although the battle was eventually fought in the ring, it was far more interesting when Lawler and Piper traded barbs ... "One On One."

RODDY PIPER: So, it's Jerry "The Burger King" Lawler. I'm surprised and delighted that you've agreed to speak to me by phone. I thought maybe you'd send somebody

else dressed up like Jerry Lawler ...

JERRY LAWLER: And I'm surprised you even knew how to dial the phone. Get one of your kids to do it for you?

RP: Now, c'mon, Jerry. We all know who the coward is around here. You're all talk and no action. You have a history, Jerry ...

JL: What history?

RP: A history of turning more yellow than an aging newspaper when the going gets tough. What do those people tell me about you faking a car accident at WrestleMania IX?

JL: What people? Your sick kids?

RP: They may be kids, Jerry, but most of them are smarter than you. In

N ONE



"You're nuts, Lawler. You think I'll do that after all the things you've said about my kids? I tried to do a good deed, but you've never done one in your life."

—Roddy Piper

fact, *all* of them are smarter than you. Most of them even graduated from grade school, which puts them way ahead of you and your constituents.

JL: My constituents? Gee, I didn't know I held office. What the heck are you talking about, Piper?

RP: The people of Memphis, that's what I'm talking about. You gotta figure they can't have all their bells and whistles in the right place if they idolize you. You've gotta figure that their elevators don't go to the top floor. Either that or they've got really bad judgment.

JL: Okay, Piper, you've talked enough. Now put your money where your mouth is ...

RP: What's that mean? I already put my money where my mouth was, and I would've been man enough to appear on that lousy TV show of yours if you didn't pull that stupid trick.

JL: It wasn't stupid, Piper, I was just trying to prove a point to all the people out there.

RP: And what was that point, Lawler?

JL: That you were asking for a bruising. The best thing you can do is get down on your hands and knees and bow to "The King." Simply beg for my forgiveness and hope that I'm having a good day.

RP: You're nuts, Lawler. You

think I'll do that after all the things you've said about my kids? I tried to do a good deed, but you've never done one in your life. So you obviously didn't know what I was talking about.

JL: Piper, *nobody* ever knows what you're talking about. Which isn't surprising considering you used to live next door to a homeless shelter for the mentally ill. Or were you one of the inmates? Is that why you're so close to those kids? See a little bit of yourself in them? Or a lot of yourself?

RP: Always talking, always mouthing off, Lawler, but you never have the guts to back up what you're saying. Listen, Lawler, I didn't come all the way from Portland to listen to your crap. We've all had enough talking. Now it's time for some action. Hey, Lawler, seen the ratings on "King's Court" lately?

JL: What ratings?

RP: Precisely. They don't exist. You know, here in Portland they declare a water shortage every time "King's Court" comes on. Do you want to know why?

JL: Why?

RP: Because everybody's going to the bathroom!

JL: Piper, I've listened to your insults and jokes, I've heard your ego sprouting off, but to me, you're an old has-been who's trying to keep his name alive by doing something charitable. You remind me of Albano. He's another one that was only in it for himself. Charity begins in the home, Piper, and you'd better start looking at yourself.

RP: I have. I like what I see. I can look at myself in the mirror in the morning.

JL: So can I, Piper. Or I can turn on the TV and see "King's Court." Which is a lot more than you can say.

RP: I don't think so, Mouth of Memphis. I can insert a tape of *They Live* into a VCR to see me in a starring role in a well-budgeted Hollywood movie. What's on your tape, Lawler, an old spot for the burger joint you used to own?

JL: Oh, the "Burger King" thing again. Roddy, you're so original. □

On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

he and his brother have done to WCW and the WWF over the past two years. Dustin Rhodes couldn't possibly like what's in store for him; the spell-check suggests dustbin. The surname of Brian Pillman suggests a move into the field of transportation—pullman. Perhaps there is a lesson from Arthur Murray in the future of Samu, whose name suggests samba. But the most interesting suggestion is given to Kwang the Ninja, whose first name becomes change and whose title becomes ninny. In other words: Change, you ninny.

Want more grim futures? Lex is an ex, Snuka has sunk, Johnny B. is bad, and the kibosh has been put on Kobashi.

Of course, some of the suggestions are way off-base. Jesse Ventura comes up *jesus venture*. I know he is bald, but I can't imagine "The Body" donning the silk wraps of Hare Krishna and accosting people in airports. The first name of Brian Lee becomes *brain*. We all know the brains behind Lee belong to Tammy Fytch, who is neither tame nor will fetch, as the spell-check suggests.

And the first name of our publisher comes up as *stud*. Sorry, Stu, I don't think so. Did your wife write this program?

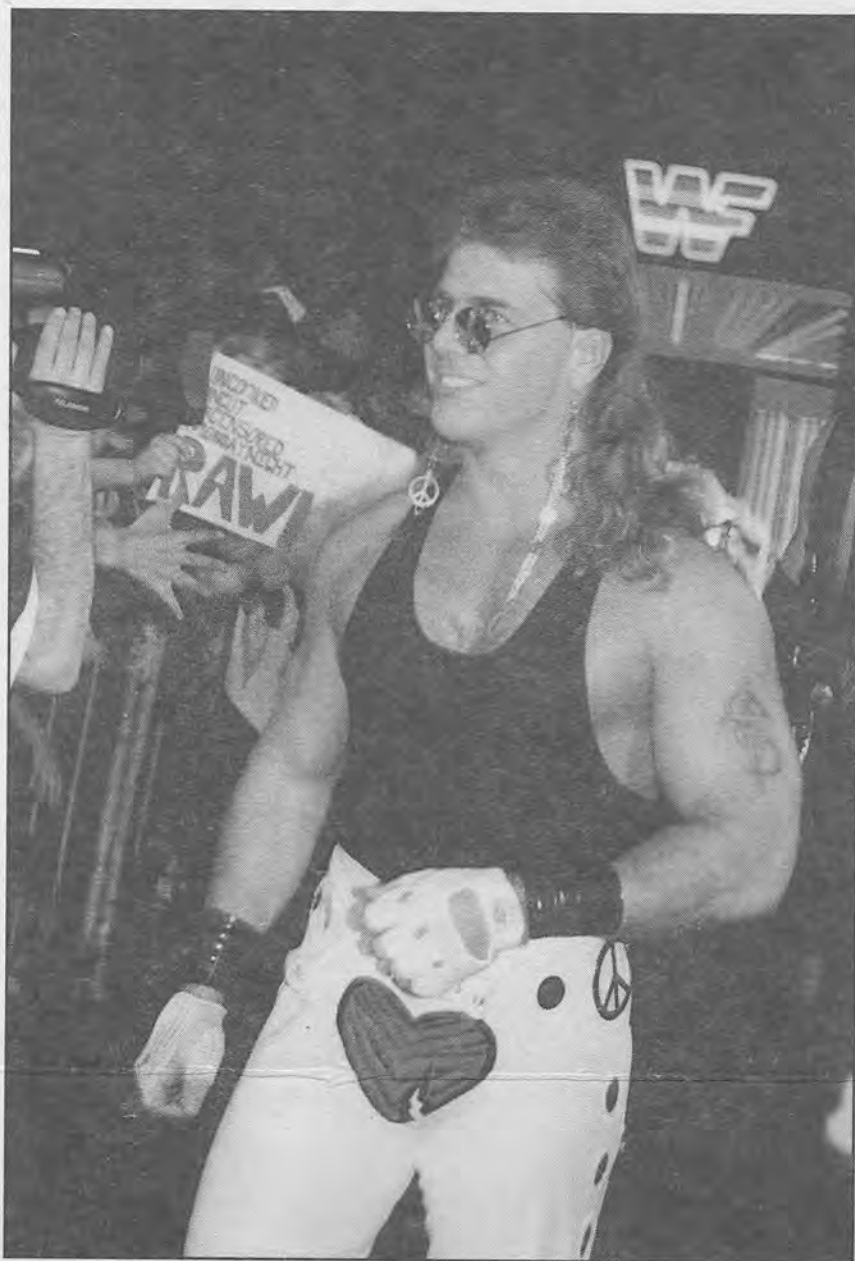
The spell-check says *WOW* for WCW, but has no suggestions for WWF, which could use a few right now, particularly in a legal vein. Unfortunately, there are no suggestions for McMahon, either. There is also nothing offered for the tandem of Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, which proves there is no substitute for Rock 'n' Roll.

Finally, my personal favorite is Shawn Michaels, who also is among my favorite wrestlers. The

suggestion for his first name is *shone*, which he has done very brightly throughout his career. The suggestion for his second name is *matchless*. I couldn't agree more.

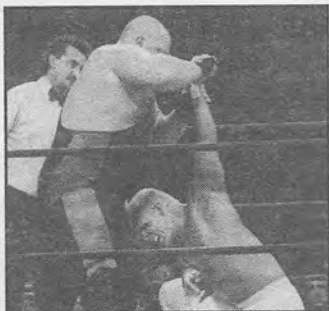
The telephone rings again. I don't answer it again. It is Stu Saks again. He is yelling. I am

finally moving. I get up and turn the air conditioner from "normal cool" to "super cool." I would turn it to "Shawn Michaels cool," if there was such a setting. But "super cool" is good enough. The white-noise hum of the motor almost drowns out Stu's message. □



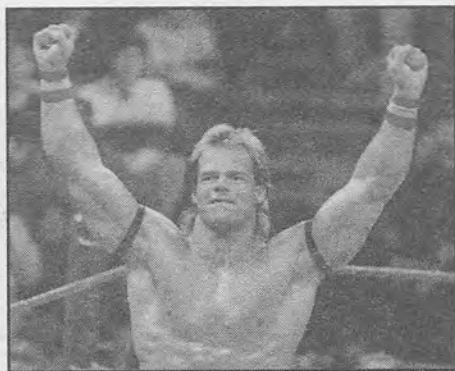
A spell-check of Shawn Michaels reveals "shone matchless," appropriate homonyms for the king of wrestling cool. And cool is what many are searching for this torrid summer.

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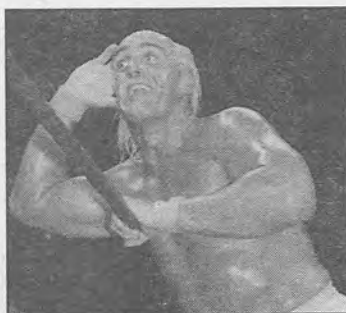
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Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)

spoiled brat." She turned and walked away.

"Hey, lady!" Sullivan yelled ahead. "My brother Evad'll take you to The Dining Room and you can have whatever you want! It's on me! I have an expense account."

The woman ignored him. The man didn't.

"Hey, mind your own business.

leaving him standing there with his hands in his pockets. I followed. Finally, Cactus Jack and Evad followed, too.

Where were we going? No-where. We walked and walked. Cactus kept on checking out the women. They kept checking out him, too, although for totally different reasons. After walking what seemed like five miles, we ended



Kevin Sullivan is an intense man both inside and outside the ring. Dave Rosenbaum found that out when Sullivan and friends decided they wanted to get into a fancy hotel.

What the heck do you think you're doing talking like that to my lady?" he asked.

"I have news for you, buster. Once she gets acquainted with Evad, she won't be your lady anymore," Sullivan responded.

Cactus Jack cackled wildly when he heard that. Evad blushed and didn't say a thing. Sullivan just walked away from the man,

up in front of the Ritz-Carlton Buckhead, a fancy hotel and home of the famous Dining Room.

"Now what can I do for you," the doorman asked Sullivan.

"Nothing," he replied. "Just hold the door."

"Like that?"

After Sullivan gave him an intimidating look, the doorman relented.

Sullivan walked into the lobby, wearing a torn muscle T-shirt and dirty sweatpants. He looked totally out of place. Cactus Jack tried to follow him, but the doorman—apparently thinking one was enough, thank you—wouldn't let him through. Cactus Jack pushed. The doorman pushed back. Finally, the doorman called for security.

"Do you have a room here, sir?" the security manager asked.

"No," Jack responded. "But thanks for asking."

They spoke for about three minutes. By the time they were through, the manager looked frightened. Kevin Sullivan hadn't returned. Evad Sullivan was reading the front of an ambulance.

"Ambulance," he said. Ah, the benefits of dyslexia.

When Kevin returned about an hour later, he had a tray full of crayfish and a bucket of raspberry-and-poppyseed parfait.

"Here, boys, dig in," he said.

Cactus and Evad used their hands. I decided I wasn't hungry.

"Hey," I offered. "Let's check out Atlanta Knights. I heard it's a great club."

The trio looked confused.

"Why?" Cactus asked. "We're having a good time here."

"We are?" I said.

This time, I walked into the lobby of the Ritz-Carlton Buckhead. I headed to the registration desk and learned the price of a single room was well above my means and expense budget.

But I didn't care. I had earned this luxury. I took a room and left my friends outside. Room service delivered in about an hour.

The next morning I walked outside and saw Cactus Jack sleeping under a tree. I didn't dare wake him. He might have offered to spend the day with me. ☐

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The Insider

(Continued from page 14)

"I didn't know you were such a hockey fan," I said.

"It's a great sport," he said. "But I'm most interested in watching Mark Messier. He and I have a lot in common. I want to see how he reacts under this pressure."

"Don't worry," I said, offering him my tiny television.

Flair took the TV out of my hands and smashed it against the wall. "I've made other arrangements," he told me. "Just meet me by my car after the match. Understand?"

I was angry—angry at Saks for sending me here, mad at Flair for breaking my TV, but still, dammit, it was hard not to get involved in the main event. For a while, it appeared there would be a new champion. Orndorff made a stunning reversal on a figure-four and Flair was in pain. ("I was distracted," the champ later admitted. "I was thinking about the hockey game.") Flair managed to grab the ropes and break the hold. After 23 minutes, Flair ducked a running clothesline and Orndorff's momentum carried him out of the ring, where he was counted out.

Immediately, Flair looked in my direction and pointed toward the locker room lot. Flair slipped into a sweat suit and bolted toward the arena door.

"Where are we going?" I asked, as he flipped a cassette into his car's tape deck. "Listen," he smiled. "Here we are for the seventh and historic final game of the

1994 Stanley Cup Finals." It was Marv Albert, longtime voice of the New York Rangers. And the game was just starting—although in real time it was 10:30 and the game was almost over. "I had someone tape the first period for me," he said. "We'll listen on the drive over

and [Brian] Leetch," he said. "When the going gets tough you look to your superstars. When they needed someone to eliminate Vader, who did they come to? Go Rangers!"

I asked Flair what other sport he would have played had he not chose wrestling. "You're listening to it," the Minnesota native said. "Hockey is about hidden, subtle talents. It's the same equation as pro wrestling—you grind it out and eventually something spectacular and graceful occurs. It's style and substance. I love it."

The Rangers took a 2-0 lead into the first intermission. "I think it's a Ranger blow-out," I predicted, hearing the cheering throng echo in my head. "No way," said Flair. "I've been in championship matches where I think I have my guy so beat after 10 minutes, I feel sorry for him. But you don't get to wrestle for the championship unless you deserve it—or unless you're Hulk Hogan. Vancouver will come back. I can feel it."

We pulled into the parking lot of his small bar just as the middle period started. "This place is great," Flair explained. "No one knows about it. No reporters, no friends or backslappers. Just a few locals and the bartender."

And, of course, Liz Hunter. Liz Hunter?

[Editor's note: Turn to "On Assignment"] □



Ric Flair loves hockey, but couldn't watch the seventh game of the Stanley Cup Finals because he was scheduled to wrestle Paul Orndorff. But the resourceful "Nature Boy" found a unique way to catch all the action.

to a little bar I own. Nothing fancy. They're tape-delaying the game for me. We'll be there for the second period."

Like they say, ownership has its privileges. We listened to the Rangers score two goals in the first, Flair screaming the whole way. "Whoooooo, baby. Messier

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April 1989/Stories include: Bulldogs, Warriors, Andre, Hogan-Savage.
May 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Valentine.
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September 1991/Stories include: Steiners vs. Sting & Luger, LOD, Cactus.
November 1991/Stories include: Luger, Steamboat, Piper, Global.
December 1991/Stories include: Flair-Hogan, Beverlys, Sting-Luger.
January 1992/Stories include: LOD, Badd, Hughes, Roberts, Gossett.
February 1992/Stories include: Flair, Simmons, Santana, Backlund.
March 1992/Stories include: Pillman, WWF title, Rude, Mountie-Hart.
April 1992/Stories include: Bearer, WCW magic, Hennig & Flair, LPWA.
May 1992/Stories include: Flair, Anderson & Eaton, Piper, Rhodes, USWA.
June 1992/Stories include: Flair-Hogan-Justice, Gilbert, Warrior, Vegas.
July 1992/Stories include: Rude, LOD, Madusa, Monsoon, Nurse Vanessa.
August 1992/Stories include: Warrior, Bunkhouse, Undertaker-Roberts, Sting.

September 1992/Stories include: LOD, Repo vs. Crush, Kleen, Freebirds.
October 1992/Stories include: Bulldog & Warrior, Lee, Martel-Tatanka, Austin.
November 1992/Stories include: Crush, Reed, Hennig, Sting, Rogers.
December 1992/Stories include: Hogan, Roberts, Simmons, Rock 'n' Rolls.
January 1993/Stories include: Ramon-Savage, Sting-Roberts, Disasters.
February 1993/Stories include: Hart, Rick Steiner, Backlund, Austin.
April 1993/Stories include: What's in/out, Ramon, Steamboat, Patriot, Tatanka.
June 1993/Stories include: Sting-Vader, Daink & Christopher, Steiners, Lawler.
July 1993/Stories include: Smith-Vader, Ramon, Rhodes, Tatanka, Bravo murder.
August 1993/Stories include: Hogan-Yokozuna, Jarrett, Vicious, Hart, Payne.
September 1993/Stories include: Ramon, Steiners, Simmons, Hart, Sting & Davey Boy.
October 1993/Stories include: Vader & Vicious, SummerSlam lists, Short-Lawler.
November 1993/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Jannetty, Bodies, Power.
December 1993/Stories include: Luger, Sting & Flair, Fyeh, Luna, Austin.
January 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Rude-Flair, Bagwell & Scorpio, Cornette.
February 1994/Stories include: Vicious & Arn, Yokozuna, Vader-Cactus, steroids, Bombs.
April 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Savage-Crush, Flair, Blayze, Adams, Boss.
May 1994/Stories include: Royal Rumble, Hulk minus bulk, Boss, Douglas-Sherri.
July 1994/Stories include: Flair vs. Hogan, DiBiase, Crockett, Douglas, WWF.
August 1994/Stories include: Cactus-Vader, M.O.M., Hart & Yokozuna, Badd.
October 1994/Stories include: Undertaker, Cactus, Scorpio-Sabu, Funk-Sheik.

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On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)

up and we could listen to the postgame show on the radio.

I opened the door, hoping to find a telephone. Instead, I stared at the seven-foot TV screen. Ten men in colored jerseys and skates chased a puck. I was dreaming. No I wasn't. There was Adam Graves slapping in the puck. The Rangers were winning 2-0. It was the first period. How did this happen. Did I cross a time warp? The Bermuda hockey triangle?

"It's tape-delayed," the bartender said, noting my Ranger attire and putting beer and a hamburger down in front of me. "For my special customers. Enjoy." There was no doubt in my mind the Rangers would win. This was kismet, fate, divine intervention at its best. The second period started and it didn't even register when Ellner and Flair entered the bar. A murmur lit through the 20 or so people in the bar, but I was so concentrated on stopping a Vancouver two-on-one that I didn't pay attention. After Richter and I made a spectacular save, I turned to see what the commotion was about. My face dropped. This was my team. This was my time. And if it was my hallucination, then why did I have to acknowledge the World champion or the lackey colleague who's made my professional life a living hell. But my first concern was: Is this a good omen or a bad one?

No sooner did the thought cross my mind than Trevor Linden swept past Brian Leetch and scored a shorthanded goal. Two-to-one, Rangers.

"Lizzie Hunter, as I live and breathe," Ric Flair said.

Nothing, or nobody, was going to make me lose my concentration. I merely nodded to the greatest wrestler of all-time and redirected my attention to the screen.

I knew the Rangers would lose. No one said winning the Cup was

"C'mon you commie kamikaze, do it, do it," he implored Vancouver's Pavel Bure. "You want the game to be close, Liz. Otherwise it's no fun."

When Vancouver closed the gap to 3-2 on Linden's second goal, I felt a rash move up and down my legs. I didn't know if I would survive the late-game assault. Twice already in these playoffs teams have scored tying goals on the Rangers with less than a minute to go. I turned around, my eyes wet, and realized Flair and Ellner were now rooting for the Rangers. Rooting hard.

"Clear the puck, Adam," Flair screamed.

"Down Richter," Ellner cried. "What are you looking at, Liz? I'm a New Yorker, for heaven's sake."

I couldn't watch the last 30 seconds. When the game ended, Flair put his arms around me.

"Congratulations," he said. "I know what it's like to wait for a title ..." He turned toward Ellner and continued, "... because Sting and Luger used to tell me. Ha, ha, ha, whoooooo!"

We spent the night in the bar. Eventually, I reached my friend on the phone and she joined us. There were a lot of toasts, a lot of tears.

"Messier is just like me," Flair said. "Give the fans their money's worth. Make it exciting. But in the end you put the puck in the net. You pin your man. You win!"

Now, if the Rangers can only reach the top as many times as Flair ... □



Fate (and Flair's benevolence) enabled Liz to see Brian Leetch and the rest of her beloved New York Rangers finally end their 54-year quest for hockey's premier prize.

going to be easy. But for the next two hours I endured the kind of captive hell no Ranger fan has ever experienced. After Mark Messier scored to make it 3-1 Rangers (Flair bought the bar a round in acknowledgement), the Canucks attacked the Rangers with a desperate vengeance, with Ellner right behind them.

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Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)



Once Terri Power (shown against Judy Martin) recovers from the injuries she suffered in Japan, reader Lydia Ryan wants her to face WWF World Women's champion Alundra Blayze.

TURN ON THE POWER

In light of the lopsidedness of the Alundra Blayze-Luna Vachon feud and the talk that Bull Nakano may be imported from Japan to give the WWF World Women's champion some competition, I'd like to propose another rival. She's no stranger to American fans, but has extensive Japanese experience. Best of all, she has the size and strength to give Blayze her biggest test yet, unlike the smallish Vachon.

Her name? Terri Power.

Now I know Terri is still recuperating from injuries suffered competing in Japan. But once she's fully recovered, the WWF should bring her into the federation as soon as possible.

A series of Blayze-Power matches would truly put women's

wrestling on the map for the first time since Wendi Richter's heyday. Their styles contrast as well, since Blayze emphasizes athletic and technical skill while Power's strong suit is her muscularity. Get these two feuding, and there's no telling where it might end.

When healthy, Power is among the world's best woman wrestlers, as she showed during her stay in the now-defunct LPWA. WWF officials would be foolish to pass her up—or Reggie Bennett, for that matter.

LYDIA RYAN
Richmond, IN

DIESEL FUMES

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Tracking The Giant's Turbulent Career," July 1994). To see him wrestle, he makes Razor Ramon look like Lou Thesz. To hear him speak, he makes Joey Buttafuoco sound like Walter Cronkite.

I look at it this way: In WCW, The Diamond Studd and Vinnie Vegas were mediocre, at best mid-card competitors, routinely dropping decisions to the lowly likes of Tom Zenk and Van Hammer. But now in the WWF, Studd is Ramon and Vegas is Diesel. Both are main-event superstars, and both have captured the federation's second-most coveted championship.

Diesel's I-C win didn't herald the ascension of wrestling's next luminary. It just proved which federation has the tougher competition.

HARRY SIMON
Las Vegas, NV □



Diesel's success is more an indictment of the WWF's talent base than an indicator of his ability, according to Harry Simon.

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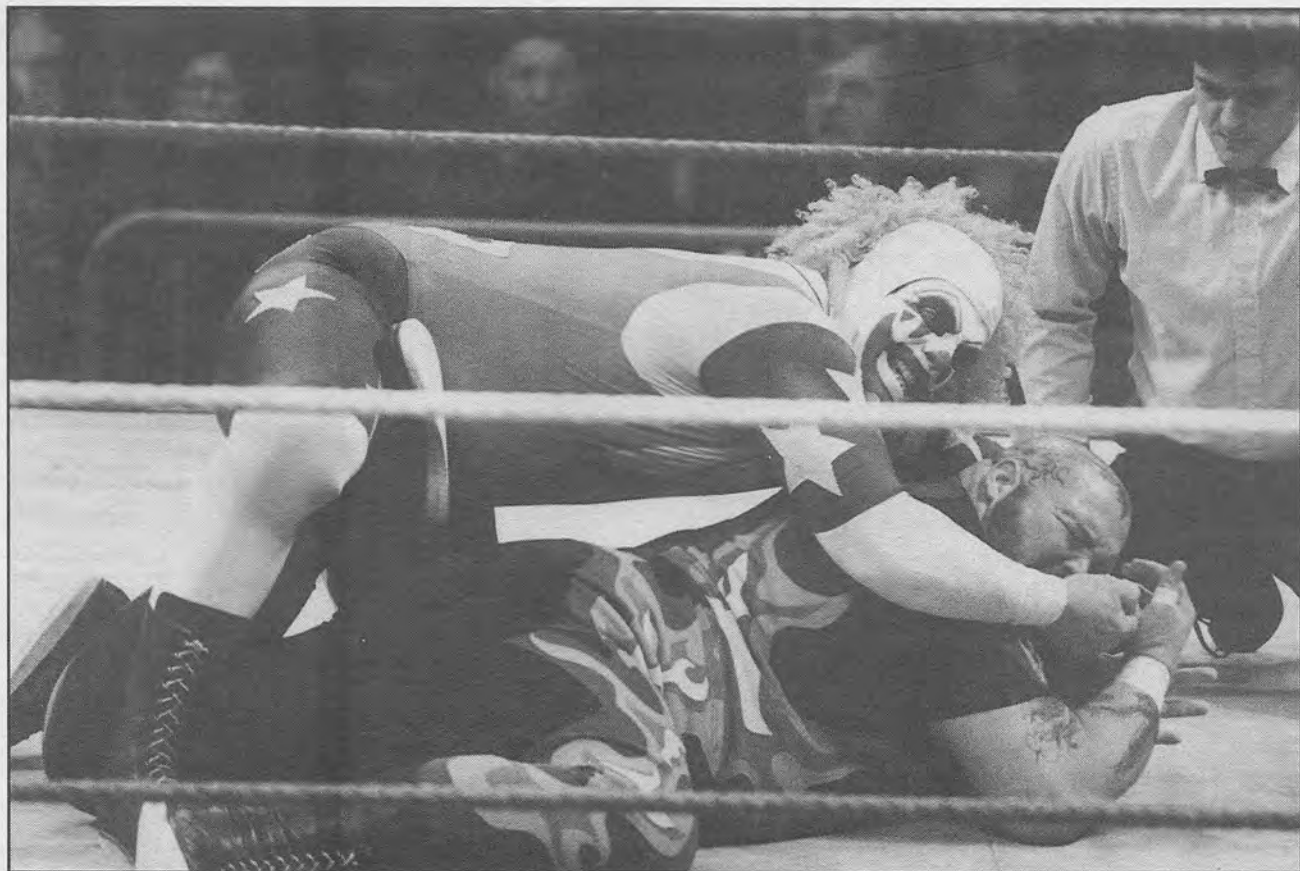
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Doink

(Continued from page 49)



Doink is scouting future opponents. He gets what he needs and then loses on purpose. You see, if he won, people would get suspicious and he'd start drawing attention. Doink doesn't want that. He just wants to do his homework and get away. He doesn't worry about pride.

"Then he uses what he knows the next time he wrestle the opponent as Doink. It gives him a major advantage, and I think some of his opponents get a little bent out of shape because they suspect something's very wrong. You know, every wrestler has a certain feel about him, and wrestlers can tell.

"He's out there."

Deep Clown also suggested that Doink II, and possibly Doink III, are scouting for Doink as preliminary wrestlers. If so, don't send in the clowns!

Don't bother. They're here.

"If this is true, the WWF has trouble brewing," said WWF expert Thomas Pilliard. "It's very important that at least the promoters know the identities of the wrestlers. You can't have one person wrestling as two persons. It's just not fair to anyone."

Fair? Who ever heard about fair when Doink is involved? He's the clown prince of wrestling. Just an ordinary, everyday guy. □

Doink initially dominated his series of matches against Bam Bam Bigelow last fall. In retrospect, did the "Beast From The East" inadvertently reveal his tactics during an otherwise unmemorable preliminary bout?

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May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patena.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Roll.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: WrestleMania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Omdorf, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty &

Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Am.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Kerry, Luger, Muraco, Freebirds.
December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.
January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Am, Kerry-Lawler.
February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Am, Warriors-Windham-Sting.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnight, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.
May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.
June 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Steamboat-Flair.
July 1989/Stories include: Savage, Windham, Kerry, Demolition, Sting.
August 1989/Stories include: Hulkamania, Steamboat, Rude, Cornette.
September 1989/Stories include: Savage-Hogan, Luger, Mascaras, Rhodes.
October 1989/Stories include: Hall & Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes.
November 1989/Stories include: Elizabeth, Sting, Luger, Paul E., Mascaras.

December 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry.
January 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-DiBiase.
February 1990/Stories include: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Zenk, Rude-Piper.
April 1990/Stories include: Starrcade '89, Ultimate, Rhodes, Sawyer.
May 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Ultimate, Luger, Woman, Lawler, LPWA.
June 1990/Stories include: Sting, Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimate, Jarrett.
July 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Sting, Warrior & Hogan, Earthquake.
August 1990/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Hogan, Warrior, Taylor.
September 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, JYD, Adams, Horsemen.
October 1990/Stories include: Sting, Legion of Doom, Bushwhackers, Gigante.
November 1990/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Vicious, Slaughter, Orients.
December 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Sting, Kerry, Cornette, Zbyszko.
January 1991/Stories include: LOD, Adams, Steiners, Lawler-Funk.
February 1991/Stories include: Taylor, Hogan, Martel, Sting, all-annoying team.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Roberts-Martel, Sting.
April 1991/Stories include: Flair-Sting, Steiners, Piper, Zbyszko, Slaughter.
May 1991/Stories include: Savage-Warrior, Steiners, Sting, Virgil.
June 1991/Stories include: Steiners, LOD, Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees.
July 1991/Stories include: Hogan, Virgil, Funk, Nastys, Steiners, Spivey.
August 1991/Stories include: Warrior-Ultimate, Steiners, Flair, Steamboat.
September 1991/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Hyatt, Rude, Hennig.
October 1991/Stories include: Savage & Liz, Hogan & Warrior, Luger.
November 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Luger, Flair, War Games.
December 1991/Stories include: SummerSlam, York, Simmons.
January 1992/Stories include: Sting, Freebirds, Hart, Rhodes, Rotundo.
February 1992/Stories include: Luger, Hart, Patriot, Rude, Thesz-Rogers.
April 1992/Stories include: Hart, Steiners,

Liger-Pillman, Roberts.
May 1992/Stories include: Justice-Hogan, Liger, Gilbert, Repo Man.
June 1992/Stories include: Sting, Hogan, Race, M.A. Bagwell, Atlas.
July 1992/Stories include: Undertaker, Vader, Sherri/Michaels, Madusa.
August 1992/Stories include: Savage-Flair, Jack-Badd, Christopher, LOD.
September 1992/Stories include: War Games, Hogan, Vader, Kamala.
October 1992/Stories include: SummerSlam, Steiner-Muta, Simmons.
November 1992/Stories include: Flair, Warrior, Vader, top rope rule.
December 1992/Stories include: Flair, Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jarrett.
February 1993/Stories include: LOD, Smoky Mountain, Rude, Jimmy Hart.
March 1993/Stories include: Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Rhodes.
May 1993/Stories include: WrestleMania IX analysis, Andre tribute, Muta.
June 1993/Stories include: Doink, Vader-Sting, Jimmy Hart, Steiners, Lawler.
July 1993/Stories include: Bravo, Gonzales, Bulldog, Ramon, Arn, Tatanka.
August 1993/Stories include: Christopher-Michaels, Hogan-Yokozuna, Hart.
September 1993/Stories include: Steiners, Slamboree, Ramon, Sting & Smith, Hart.
October 1993/Stories include: SummerSlam preview, Money Inc., Nanny Simpson, Vader-Vicious, Hart-Lawler.
November 1993/Stories include: Heavenly Bodies, Jannetty, Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Power Bombs.
December 1993/Stories include: Fytch, Austin, Luger, Sting & Flair, Yokozuna.
February 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Duggan, Doinks, Blonds, holiday wishes.
March 1994/Stories include: Nastys, Parker, Borge, 1994 predictions.
May 1994/Stories include: Flair-Rude, Hart, Luger, Morton, Heenan-Bockwinkel.
June 1994/Stories include: Steamboat, Snuka, Anthony, Bruise Bros., Blayze.
August 1994/Stories include: Piper, Hogan, 911, Freebirds, rulebreakers.
September 1994/Stories include: Undertaker, Nastys, Volkoff, Flair-Steamboat.

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OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—BRET HART

(1) WWF World champion

2—RIC FLAIR

(2) WCW World champion

3—OWEN HART

(4) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

4—STING

(6) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

5—RAZOR RAMON

(11) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

6—BIG VAN VADER

(12) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

7—DIESEL

(-) WWF Intercontinental champion

8—JERRY LAWLER

(7) USWA champion

9—THE KID

(-) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

10—TONY ANTHONY

(14) No. 1 contender: Smoky Mountain title

11—STEVE AUSTIN

(3) WCW U.S. champion

12—STEVE REGAL

(-) No. 6 contender: WCW World title

13—SABU

(-) No. 2 contender: ECW title

14—LEX LUGER

(13) No. 13 contender: WWF World title

15—DUSTIN RHODES

(-) No. 8 contender: WCW World title

WCW

1—RIC FLAIR

(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN

2—STEVE AUSTIN

(2) 241 Dallas, TX

3—RICK STEAMBOAT

(11) 238, Honolulu, HI

4—BIG VAN VADER

(6) 450, Denver, CO

5—STING

(8) 260, Venice Beach, CA

6—LARRY ZBYSZKO

(7) 248, Pittsburgh, PA

7—STEVE REGAL

(3) 247, Blackpool, England

8—BUNKHOUSE BUCK

(10) 239, Bucksport, TN

9—DUSTIN RHODES

(9) 254, Austin, TX

10—THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

(-) 310, Cobb County, GA

11—ARN ANDERSON

(15) 249, Minneapolis, MN

12—BRIAN PILLMAN

(14) 226, Cincinnati, OH

13—JOHNNY B. BADD

(13) 235, Macon, GA

14—ERIK WATTS

(-) 262, Tulsa, OK

15—THE PATRIOT

(-) 251, Columbia, SC

WWF

1—BRET HART

(1) 235, Calgary, Alberta

2—DIESEL

(2) 356, Las Vegas, NV

3—OWEN HART

(3) 223, Calgary, Alberta

4—RAZOR RAMON

(5) 291, Minneapolis, MN

5—THE KID

(12) 212, Minneapolis, MN

6—RODDY PIPER

(-) 247, Glasgow, Scotland

7—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

(8) 245, Syracuse, NY

8—TATANKA

(9) 260, Miami, FL

9—BAM BAM BIGELOW

(11) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

10—JEFF JARRETT

(-) 230, Nashville, TN

11—JIM NEIDHART

(-) 275, Tampa, FL

12—JERRY LAWLER

(-) 234, Memphis, TN

13—YOKOZUNA

(4) 550, Samoa

14—LEX LUGER

(13) 290, Chicago, IL

15—CRUSH

(-) 322, Kona, HI

MOST POPULAR

1—BRET HART

Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

2—STING

Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

3—RAZOR RAMON

Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

4—LEX LUGER

Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

5—RICK STEAMBOAT

Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

6—THE UNDERTAKER

Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

7—RANDY SAVAGE

Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

8—TATANKA

Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

9—DUSTIN RHODES

Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

10—TONY ANTHONY

Last issue: No. 11 Most Popular

11—JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: No. 13 Most Popular

12—RODDY PIPER

Last issue: unrated

13—CACTUS JACK

Last issue: No. 12 Most Popular

14—SABU

Last issue: unrated

15—THE KID

Last issue: unrated

MOST HATED

1—OWEN HART

Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

2—BIG VAN VADER

Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

3—DIESEL

Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

4—JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

5—JIM NEIDHART

Last issue: unrated

6—CRUSH

Last issue: unrated

7—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

Last issue: No. 12 Most Hated

8—BAM BAM BIGELOW

Last issue: No. 11 Most Popular

9—JAKE ROBERTS

Last issue: unrated

10—BRUISER BEDLAM

Last issue: unrated

11—YOKOZUNA

Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

12—BUNKHOUSE BUCK

Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated

13—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

Last issue: unrated

14—CHRIS CANDIDO

Last issue: unrated

15—EDDIE GILBERT

Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

TOP 15

1—THE HEADSHRINKERS

(1) WWF World tag team champions

2—CACTUS JACK & KEVIN SULLIVAN

(8) WCW World tag team champions

3—THE NASTY BOYS

(2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

4—CRUSH & YOKOZUNA

(-) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

5—CHRIS CANDIDO & BRIAN LEE

(3) Smoky Mountain tag team champions

6—PUBLIC ENEMY

(9) ECW tag team champions

7—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(6) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

8—THE QUEBECERS

(13) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

9—PG-13

(-) USWA tag team champions

10—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER & JERRY LAWLER

(-) No. 2 contenders: USWA tag title

11—THE BUSHWHACKERS

(-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

12—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA

(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

13—GEORGE SOUTH & ITALIAN STALLION

(-) PWF tag team champions

14—THE ELIMINATORS

(7) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

15—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT

(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended June 16, 1994

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

AAA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EL HIJO DEL SANTO & OCTAGON
(November 5, 1993; defeated Love Machine & Eddy Guerrero; Tonalá, Mexico)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS
(September 9, 1993; from The Patriot & The Eagle; Omiya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI
(January 25, 1994; from Dan Kroffat; Miyagi, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 3, 1993; defeated Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION: YOKO INOUE
(March 27, 1994; defeated Toshiyo Yamada; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KAORI ITO
(May 4, 1994; defeated Rie Tamada in tournament final; Toda, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: AJA KONG
(November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CANDY OKUTSU
(December 6, 1993; from Chapparrita Asari; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MINAMI TOYOTA & TOSHIYO YAMADA
(December 6, 1993; from Dynamite Kansai & Mayumi Ozaki; Osaka, Japan)

ALL STATE WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY PRICHARD
(March 24, 1994; defeated Regulator Stone in tournament final; Maryville, TN)

ALL STATE WRESTLING JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBIE FIELDS
(October 14, 1993; from Charles Long; Maryville, TN)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: T. RANTULA
(March 26, 1994; from Rip Sawyer; Johnsonburg, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOHNNY GRAHAM
(May 29, 1994; from Lord Zoltan; Lancaster, PA)

AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BAD CREW
(September 30, 1993; title previously vacant; York, PA)

AMERICAN STATES WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SCOTT SOMERS
(November 19, 1993; from Bo Dacioux; Mansfield, OH)

ASWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHAD AUSTIN
(November 14, 1993; from Joe College; Essex, MD)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBY ROGERS
(December 4, 1993; from Blare Rogers; Hollywood, FL)

ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: T.J. JACKSON & THE MISER
(July 2, 1993; from American Scorpion & The Falcon; West Palm Beach, FL)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS
(December 4, 1993; from Vic Steamboat; Tewksbury, MA)

CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(December 4, 1993; from El Mascaro; Tewksbury, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT
(October 23, 1993; from The Iron Sheik; Wakefield, MA)

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY
(October 23, 1993; from Flex Lavender; Wakefield, MA)

ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHANE DOUGLAS
(March 26, 1994; from Terry Funk; Devon, PA)

ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PUBLIC ENEMY
(March 6, 1994; from Kevin Sullivan & Tasmaniac; Philadelphia, PA)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: MIKEY WHIPWRECK
(May 13, 1994; from Pit Bull Psycho Mike; Philadelphia, PA)

GWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP
(Most recently held by Rod Price)

GWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JIM GARVIN & TERRY GORDY
(June 3, 1994; from Black Bart & John Hawk; Dallas, TX)

IPWA CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP
(Most recently held by Vern Henderson)

IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VLADIMIR KOLOFF
(October 17, 1992; battle royal final over Thunderfoot II; Girard, OH)

IWA INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: BARRY HOROWITZ
(October 23, 1993; from Preston Steele; Warren, OH)

IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP
(Most recently held by The Thunderfoots)

IWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KONNAN
(April 2, 1994; from Cien Caras; Reynosa, Mexico)

IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI
(December 26, 1991; from Tasmaniac; Monticello, NY)

IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SIOUX WAR PARTY
(May 9, 1992; defeated The Canadians in tournament final; Hamburg, PA)

IWGP CHAMPION: SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(May 1, 1994; from Tatsumi Fujinami; Fukuoka, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENSUKE SASAKI & HAWK
(January 4, 1994; from Scott Norton & Hercules; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN UGER
(January 4, 1993; from Ultimo Dragon; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: MITSUWARA MISAWA
(August 22, 1992; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUWARA MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI
(December 3, 1993; defeated Akira Taue & Toshiaki Kawada in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

PLANT CITY WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LUSCIOUS LUKE
(May 19, 1994; from Vern Henderson; Plant City, Florida)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT
(Most recently held by Italian Stallion)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CRUEL CONNECTION II
(February 12, 1994; from American G.I.; Point Pleasant, WV)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRIAN WILLIAMS
(April 29, 1994; from George South; Kings Mountain, NC)

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: GEORGE SOUTH & ITALIAN STALLION
(May 28, 1994; from Terry Austin & Austin Steele; Inman, SC)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JAKE ROBERTS
(May 2, 1994; from Tony Anthony; Harrison, TN)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS CANDIDO & BRIAN LEE
(April 23, 1994; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Johnson City, TN)

SMOKY MOUNTAIN U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS CANDIDO
(November 13, 1993; from Bobby Blaze; Morristown, TN)

TENNESSEE ALL-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOMMY RICH
(September 23, 1993; from Buddy Landell; Maryville, TN)

TENNESSEE ALL-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAUL RAY & JOHNNY RAYNOR
(September 23, 1993; from Tom Pitner & Deke Rivers; Maryville, TN)

USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER
(March 24, 1994; from Eddie Gilbert; Sanatobia, MS)

USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: TROY GRAHAM
(June 6, 1994; from Brian Christopher; Memphis, TN)

USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PG-13
(June 13, 1994; from The Eliminators; Memphis, TN)

WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSKO
(May 2, 1994; from Lord Steven Regal; Atlanta, GA)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN
(December 27, 1993; from Dustin Rhodes; Charlotte, NC)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR
(December 27, 1993; from Big Van Vader; Charlotte, NC)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CACTUS JACK & KEVIN SULLIVAN
(May 22, 1994; from The Nasty Boys; Philadelphia, PA)

WINDY CITY WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SMITH BROTHERS
(November 13, 1993; from The Twin Turbos; Greenville, IL)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
(April 16, 1994; from Nailz; Atlantic City, NJ)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: JACK HAMMER
(August 27, 1993; from Tony Atlas; Freeport, Bahamas)

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DIAMOND EXPRESS
(March 14, 1994; by officials' decision)

WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DUANE & WAYNE GILL
(May 14, 1994; from The Super Jocks; Williamstown, NJ)

WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: MR. ONITA
(September 19, 1992; from Tiger Jeet Singh; Yokohama, Japan)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: DIESEL
(April 13, 1994; from Razor Ramon; Rochester, NY)

WWF WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ALUNDRA BLAYZE
(December 13, 1993; defeated Heidi Lee Morgan in tournament final; Poughkeepsie, NY)

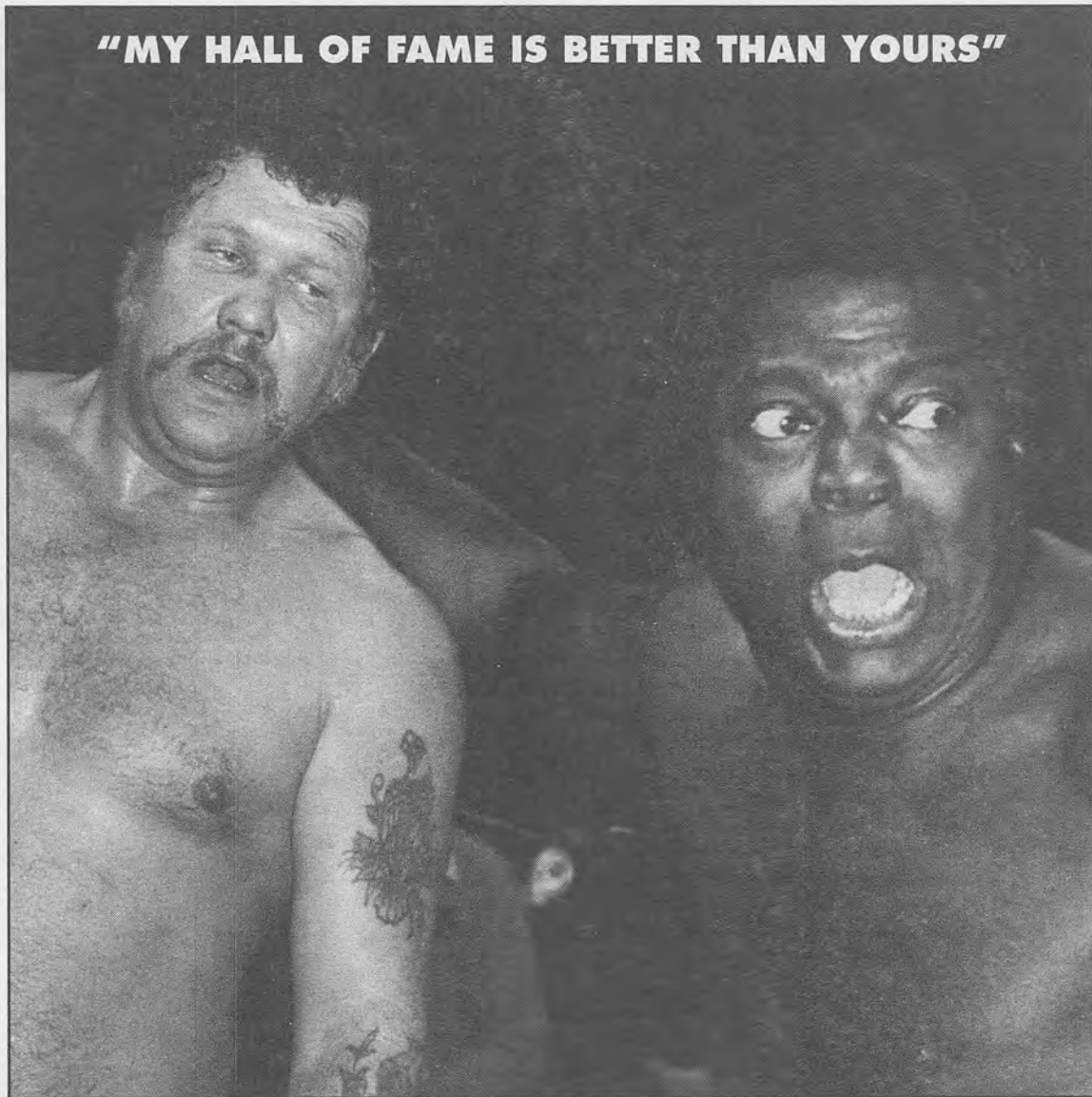
WWF WORLD CHAMPION: BRET HART
(March 20, 1994; from Yokozuna; New York, NY)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE HEADSHRINKERS
(April 26, 1994; from The Quebecers; Burlington, VT)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month In Wrestling History

"MY HALL OF FAME IS BETTER THAN YOURS"

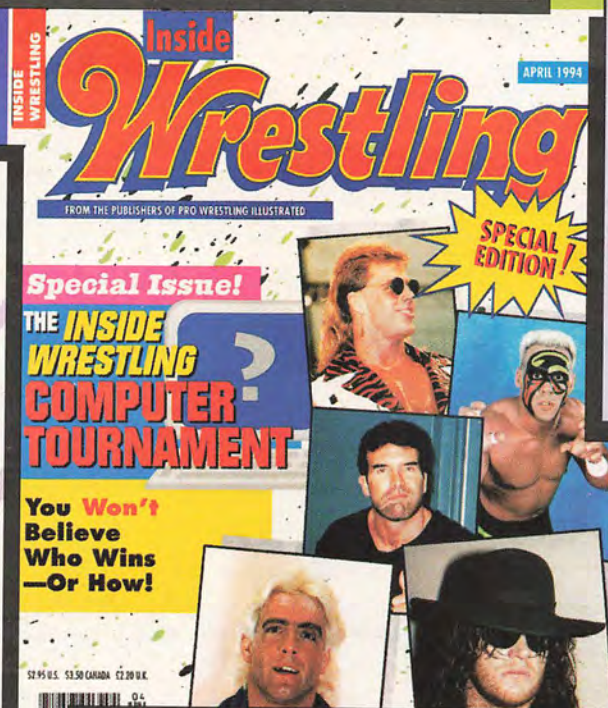


HARLEY RACE vs. BOBO BRAZIL **August 1982**

Is this the type of behavior you'd expect from two Hall of Famers? It is in wrestling! Harley Race was inducted into the WCW Hall of Fame this May, while Bobo Brazil was enshrined in the WWF's in June. They were feuding in the NWA when this picture was taken in Indianapolis. Harley doesn't look too thrilled about the prospect of being rammed face-first into a ringpost, but it would probably turn out to be much less painful than one of Bobo's "coco-butts."

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